



TESTIMONY FOR SB1035
Focusing Federal Career and Technical Education Act Funds
on Blueprint School-to-Work Apprenticeship Goals Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Rosapepe

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB1035 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Focusing Federal Career and Technical Education Act Funds on Blueprint School-to-Work Apprenticeship Goals Act aims to enhance career and technical education (CTE) by aligning federal funds with the goals outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. To do so, the State Board of Education will collaborate with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to develop a plan that aligns with the Blueprint's school-to-work apprenticeship goals while our Department of Education will administer the funds from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

For fiscal year 2024, Maryland has been allocated \$16,621,068 in funding through this grant. The purpose of this program is to support and expand local CTE programs, enhance Maryland's CTE system, and improve student outcomes. By aligning federal funds with the Blueprint's vision, Maryland aims to create a robust and responsive CTE system that benefits students, employers, and the state's economy.

Our Coalition worked hard to get the Blueprint for Maryland's Future passed to transform Maryland's education system into a world-class model, benefiting students, educators, historically underserved communities, and the state's economic competition. However, The Blueprint initiative is facing a budget shortfall. In 2023, the Department of Legislative Services reported that the Blueprint Fund is projected to have a budget shortfall by 2027 of approximately \$200 million. Therefore, we need to optimally manage our resources, including the CTE grants, for the best results.

The alignment of CTE funds with the Blueprint goals called for in SB1035 facilitates the best results for our students and employers. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.