

## **MWA Members**

**Anne Arundel County**  
Anne Arundel Workforce  
Development Corporation  
*Kirkland Murray, Executive Director*

**Baltimore City**  
Mayor's Office of Employment  
Development  
*MacKenzie Garvin, Director*

**Baltimore County**  
Baltimore County Department of  
Economic and Workforce  
Development  
*Jonathan Sachs, Director*

**Carroll County**  
Carroll County Workforce  
Development  
*Heather Lee Powell, Manager*

**Frederick County**  
Frederick County Workforce  
Services  
*Michelle Day, Director*

**Howard County**  
Howard County Office of Workforce  
Development  
*Stephanie Adibe, Director*

**Lower Shore**  
Lower Shore Workforce Alliance  
(Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester,  
Counties)  
*Leslie Porter-Cabell, Workforce  
Director*

**Montgomery County**  
WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.  
*Anthony Featherstone, Executive  
Director*

**Prince George's County**  
Prince George's County Workforce  
Development Board  
*Walter Simmons, Executive  
Director*

**Southern Maryland**  
Southern Maryland Job Source  
(Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's  
Counties)  
*Ruthy Davis, Director*

**Susquehanna Region**  
Susquehanna Workforce Network,  
Inc. (Cecil & Harford Counties)  
*Kimberly Justus, Executive Director*

**Upper Shore**  
Upper Shore Workforce Investment  
Board (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, & Talbot Counties)  
*Dan McDermott, Interim Executive  
Director*

**Western Maryland**  
Western Maryland Consortium  
(Allegany, Garrett &  
Washington Counties)  
*Amos McCoy, Interim Executive  
Director*

March 3, 2025

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barnes & House Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION of House Bill 1245: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations.

Maryland's economy depends on a well-prepared, career-ready talent pipeline. HB 1245 eliminates that by eliminating the Career Counseling Program for Middle and High School Students. The partnership between local education agencies, workforce development boards, community colleges and businesses is vital to ensuring that students receive relevant career guidance tailored to Maryland's in-demand industries. These collaborations will help address skills gaps, reduce youth unemployment, and align student aspirations with real workforce opportunities.

However, HB 1245 eliminates this program even as the first full year of implementation is just now wrapping up. For the sake of students and the future workforce for Maryland's businesses, we are asking you to oppose HB 1245's elimination of career counseling for students.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Maryland's students and economy. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information or insights on the benefits of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President  
Maryland Workforce Association