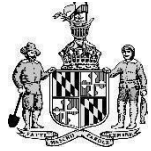


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February 18, 2025

The Honorable Pam Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 433 - Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy and Maryland As A Model Employer Initiative - Letter of Support

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Governor, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 433, Office of Disability Employment and Advancement and Maryland as a Model Employer Initiative. As part of the Governor's focus on spurring economic growth, this legislation establishes a new office and initiative under the Department of Disabilities to provide additional support and tap into Maryland's disability community for meeting workforce needs.

The Office of Disability Employment Advancement will develop and implement strategies supporting hiring, training, and retention of persons with disabilities, and the Model Employer Initiative codifies the State's commitment to the national movement to push state governments to act as model employers in improving hiring, recruitment, and retention. The bill is designed to contribute to economic growth and support individuals with disabilities in working for the State. I urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please contact June Chung, Deputy Legislative Officer at june.chung@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

June Chung
Deputy Legislative Officer