



**SB431 - Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 19, 2025**  
**Legislative Position: FAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

MACPA is a professional association representing 9,000 Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and accounting leaders across Maryland. We appreciate the intent of SB431 to expand workforce development through Registered Apprenticeships and recognize the value of apprenticeship programs in developing a skilled workforce.

We also support the creation of the **Registered Apprenticeship Qualified Intermediary Program**, which recognizes the critical role of intermediaries in advancing the development and expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs. The intermediary role is particularly challenging in occupations new to apprenticeships, such as accounting and finance, and we welcome the additional resources, expertise, and oversight this program would provide.

We support efforts to expand access to professional careers through Registered Apprenticeships while maintaining strong licensure standards that uphold public confidence and professional integrity. Ensuring a balanced approach that promotes workforce development while preserving rigorous qualifications is essential to maintaining the high standards of licensed professions.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report** on SB431

For more information about this position, please contact Mary Beth Halpern [marybeth@macpa.org](mailto:marybeth@macpa.org) or Nick Manis [nmanis@maniscanning.com](mailto:nmanis@maniscanning.com).