

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*

February 17, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing you to express the strong support of the Maryland Workforce Association for **SB 431: The Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act**. As the Association of the thirteen local workforce boards in the State of Maryland, we appreciate the Moore-Miller Administration's focus on building Maryland's economy through building the State's workforce. The State's local workforce boards are the boots on the ground connecting job seekers with employment opportunities. We also assist businesses in growing their businesses through investing in their employees through initiatives like Registered Apprenticeships, while also identifying candidates for opening positions.

This bill will continue Maryland's focus on expanding Registered Apprenticeship programs. It also invests in intermediaries to connect businesses with apprenticeship opportunities. We believe that the local workforce boards are the definition of a qualified intermediary, and look forward to working with the Department of Labor on this endeavor. Of note, several of the workforce boards and the Association itself is so committed to the apprenticeship model that we are currently exploring ways in which the workforce boards and Association can serve as not only an intermediary, but a sponsor of Registered Apprenticeship programs. The Association also continues to provide professional development opportunities for front line workforce staff, community college professionals, and K-12 education providers on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship.

Additionally, the Association supports the utilization of a greater than one-to-one ratio for certain occupations. We believe this is the only way to truly see the apprenticeship growth that the State is seeking.

In short, we strongly support this measure and respectfully ask for the Committee's favorable consideration of this bill. Should you have any questions regarding this testimony, please do not hesitate to reach out to Brandon Butler, the Association's Executive Director at 240.434.5524 or mwaexecdirector@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association