

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*

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for House Bill 772

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association (MWA), representing the state's thirteen local workforce development boards, we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 772. This legislation is essential to strengthening Maryland's career counseling system by integrating workforce development boards into the career guidance process—a proven model that is gaining national recognition.

Local workforce development boards serve as key connectors between education and industry, ensuring that career counseling is informed by real-time labor market data, employer needs, and in-demand career pathways. By continuing this partnership, House Bill 772 will enhance career readiness and workforce alignment across the state.

The impact of this approach is already evident:

Over 200 workforce professionals have been dispatched to middle and high schools across Maryland to provide career guidance.

More than 190,000 students have been reached in just the first year, providing them with valuable insights into career pathways, apprenticeships, and training opportunities.

Maryland is leading the way, with other states looking to replicate this workforce-driven career counseling model.

By continuing and strengthening the partnerships between workforce boards, schools, and businesses, House Bill 772 will ensure that students and job seekers receive career guidance tailored to workforce needs, ultimately strengthening Maryland's economy and closing skills gaps in high-growth industries.

The Maryland Workforce Association urges your support for House Bill 772 to sustain and expand this impactful initiative. Thank you for your leadership in ensuring that Maryland continues to lead the nation in innovative workforce solutions. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the positive outcomes this legislation will create.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association