

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 18, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association (MWA), an association of the thirteen local workforce boards in the State of Maryland, I am writing to express strong SUPPORT for **House Bill 1047 – Income Tax Credit for Employers of Eligible Apprentices – Alterations.**

The Association and its members are the experts on workforce development in Maryland's communities connecting citizens to quality jobs and businesses to their next great employee. One of the ways we do that is through investing in apprenticeship opportunities. As Maryland continues to focus on apprenticeship opportunities for both youth and adults, Maryland's thirteen workforce boards work with businesses, along with our state partners, to expand this time tested model to various occupations.

This legislation is a critical step in expanding workforce opportunities and strengthening Maryland's economy by incentivizing the employment and development of apprentices across industries.

- Removes barriers by eliminating the wage requirement tied to the prevailing wage, allowing more employers to participate.
- Extends the program's duration through 2031, ensuring long-term benefits for workforce development.
- Encourages youth apprenticeships by offering enhanced credits, promoting career pathways for young Marylanders.

Again, apprenticeships are a proven model for closing skill gaps, connecting Marylanders to quality jobs, and supporting businesses in building a competitive workforce. HB 1047 makes this program more accessible and impactful for employers and apprentices alike.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1047 and look forward to continued collaboration with the General Assembly to expand workforce opportunities. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact the Association's Executive Director, Brandon Butler, at 240.434.524 or mwaexecdirector@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association