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DC Area Headquarters  
7761 Diamondback Court  
College Park, Maryland 20740

### **SB 597: Support**

Testimony of Brian Darmody, Chief Strategy Officer, AURP

AURP is an international nonprofit membership organization of research parks and the firms that build these communities of innovation with an office in College Park, Maryland in UMD Discovery District and Tucson Arizona in U of Arizona Research Park. [www.aurp.org](http://www.aurp.org)  
Previously I was Assistant Vice President for Corporate Relations and head of government relations at UMD College Park.

SB 597 establishes the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Partnership within the University System of Maryland, creating a single statewide hub to coordinate AI research, workforce development, industry collaboration, and responsible government adoption of AI.

Through my work nationally at AURP, I am familiar with other economic development strategies states and regions are adopting to coordinate and advance both AI and Quantum technology adoption, and I wrote a 2025 article for the Washington Business Journal urging the state to implement a coordinated strategy. SB 597 is consistent with that policy suggestion. <https://mpower.maryland.edu/viewpoint-marylands-economy-needs-help-ai-quantum-and-data-are-the-answer/>

Maryland is fortunate to have both leading efforts in AI, such as the AI Interdisciplinary Institute at UMD, <https://ai.umd.edu/>, and at other colleges and universities throughout the state including federal labs and private sector companies. The intersection of AI with quantum through new hybrid models is bringing the world class quantum ecosystem in Maryland with Maryland-headquartered ION Q and others together with AI advances.

The World Quantum Congress is coming to College Park Sept 23-25, 2026, to explore the growth of hybrid AI and quantum technology, among other topics with delegations from over 20 countries. <https://www.quantumworldcongress.com/>

It is especially fitting that Maryland demonstrates its technology advances by creating an AI coordination hub as outlined in SB 597. Care must be taken, however, to ensure that the legislation does not create unfunded mandates by supporting development of classes and certifications without providing funding or resources.

Thank you.

Brian Darmody  
Chief Strategy Officer  
AURP