

March 11, 2026

Hon. Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senate of Maryland  
**Re: Support for Senate Bill 597**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership, I write to express our support for SB 597, an important step toward preparing Marylanders with critical artificial intelligence (AI) skills while positioning the state as a leader in AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technology.

The Partnership is a nonprofit alliance of nearly 50 leading corporate, university, and nonprofit employers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia committed to advancing the region's economic growth and competitiveness. Our member organizations support more than 647,000 jobs across the region, and through our Skills and Talent Initiative, we work with educators and employers to strengthen talent pipelines and expand access to training and careers that drive economic mobility. SB 597 supports this mission by aligning education and workforce programs with the technologies shaping tomorrow's economy.

The Cyber Warrior Diversity Program was created with input from cross-sector partners including Digit All City, Northrop Grumman, and the US Department of Defense to expand career-connected learning and provide students with pathways to in-demand credentials in computer networking and cybersecurity. Since its creation, Maryland's talent needs have continued to evolve, particularly as AI reshapes both the technology sector and the broader workforce. Seventy-six percent of professionals already say they need AI skills to remain competitive in the workforce<sup>i</sup>, and the Partnership's latest research indicates that AI fluency is quickly becoming a foundational capability across tech roles.

These trends underscore the importance of updating workforce and education programs to respond to emerging technologies. The Partnership's recent report, *Region Rising: Shaping Greater Washington's Economy for the Future*, highlights the need for our region to accelerate investment and innovation in high-growth sectors such as AI and other advanced technologies.<sup>ii</sup> By supporting AI training through Cyber Warrior and technology extension hubs, and by creating opportunities for universities and state agencies to collaborate through the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Partnership, HB 597 helps accelerate responsible AI adoption, foster innovation, and strengthen the state's position in a rapidly growing sector.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 597. Thank you for your consideration and shared commitment to reducing barriers to economic mobility and opportunity, as well as making this region the best place to live, work, and build a business.

Contact:  
Emily West  
Sr. Vice President, Policy & Initiatives  
[ewest@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com](mailto:ewest@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com)

---

<sup>i</sup> Deloitte: [Preparing Students for an AI-Driven Workforce](#), Jan. 2025.

<sup>ii</sup> Greater Washington Partnership: [Region Rising: Shaping Greater Washington's Economy for the Future](#), Feb. 2026.