

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)
Ellen LaFrankie, Executive Director

Western Maryland

Western Maryland Consortium
(Allegheny, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Stacey Ferrare, Executive Director

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association (MWA), I write to express strong support for Senate Bill 70: Adult Education – High School Diploma Pathways – GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway.

MWA represents the thirteen local workforce development boards across Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the workforce system, advance economic mobility, and foster meaningful connections between education, employers, and jobseekers.

SB 70 is an important step toward expanding educational and workforce opportunities. The bill establishes a GED Option Pilot Program to broaden pathways for students at risk of not completing high school, ensuring they can earn a diploma and be better prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce. It also creates the MDiplomaWorks pathway—recognizing academic and career competencies, including workforce experience, as valid routes to high school completion.

This expansion aligns with the goals of Maryland's workforce system by:

Increasing credential attainment, which correlates with higher employment rates and earnings.

Reducing barriers to workforce participation for learners who struggle in traditional pathways.

Strengthening alignment between education and workforce needs, supporting Maryland's long-term economic competitiveness.

For these reasons, the Maryland Workforce Association strongly supports passage of SB 70.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the Maryland Workforce Association, please contact Brandon Butler, Executive Director at mwaexecdirector@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray
President
Maryland Workforce Association