

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
*Jeffrey Swilley, Interim 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
(Allegany, Garrett &
Washington Counties)
Stacey Ferrare, Executive Director

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Workforce Association (MWA), which represents Maryland's 13 Local Workforce Development Boards, I respectfully submit this letter in support of Senate Bill 539, with amendment.

SB 539 advances important workforce engagement efforts by supporting events and initiatives that connect Marylanders to employment and career pathways. Strengthening workforce access and coordination is a shared priority across the State's workforce system.

As introduced, the bill appropriately allows nonprofit organizations, workforce entities, and partnerships to apply for funding. However, to ensure alignment with Maryland's federally designated workforce system and to maximize coordination across local workforce areas,

MWA recommends the addition of the following amendment to § 9-4127(b) as paragraph (5):

(5) AN APPLICANT THAT IS NOT A LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MAY RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION ONLY IF THE APPLICANT HAS ENTERED INTO A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE MARYLAND WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION.

This amendment does not restrict eligibility. Rather, it ensures that grant-funded activities are aligned with Maryland's statewide workforce strategy and coordinated with the local workforce boards that are federally recognized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Local workforce boards serve as the boots-on-the-ground infrastructure for workforce development across Maryland. When state funding supports workforce initiatives, coordination with this existing system strengthens impact, reduces duplication, and promotes accountability.

We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 539 with the proposed amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirkland Murray, President
Maryland Workforce Association