

**TO:** The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair  
*Senate Finance Committee*

**SB905**  
**Favorable**

**FROM:** Sameer Sidh  
*Director of Maryland Government Affairs, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine*

**DATE:** March 3, 2026

**RE:** SB905 Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program – Established

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**Johns Hopkins supports SB905 Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program – Established.** This bill establishes the Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program Fund within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to support the growth of companies specializing in regenerative medicine and other advanced manufacturing.

Regenerative medicine, life sciences, and other advanced manufacturing grants have the potential to transition Maryland from a research-focused hub to a leader in commercial-scale production, bolstering a regenerative cell and “bio-manufacturing” ecosystem that faces national and international competition.

As the nation’s first research university, Johns Hopkins is a cornerstone of Maryland’s research and life sciences economy. Research at Johns Hopkins contributes over \$9 billion to the Maryland economy annually, including nearly \$5 billion in direct economic impact in Baltimore City with hundreds of millions paid annually to local Baltimore suppliers and contractors.

Our emphasis on translating our research activity into economic impact has grown over time. Over the past 15 years, startup companies fueled by licensed university technology have grown by 80% - direct evidence of the ways in which university research sparks innovation and catalyzes the private sector. Johns Hopkins has created more than 130 active startup companies that collectively employ more than 1,500 people, and these startups have raised \$4.4 billion in cumulative venture funding since 2014.

However, our ability to use our research activity to benefit Maryland’s economy faces a significant threat in the form of significant cuts to federal research grant activity. In 2025 alone, Johns Hopkins federal research grant funding portfolio declined by over \$500 million, with \$66 million in outright grant terminations. New funding opportunities have plummeted as well, as our largest federal grantor (National Institute of Health) reduced notices of new grant opportunities by over 80% in 2025.

Establishment of the Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program through SB905 represents an opportunity to mitigate the impact of federal research grant cuts, and help transition the State away from a federal employment-based economy. The grant activity contemplated under the program will provide important capital for infrastructure, technology and equipment to

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early stage and scaling companies, helping start-up and keep companies in Maryland.

Maryland possesses a competitive advantage in regenerative medicine, life science and other advanced manufacturing activities because of the presence of in-state academic research universities like Johns Hopkins. The Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program represents an opportunity to leverage our competitive advantage through commercialization of these activities.

For the reasons stated above, we urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB905.