

HB 1077: Education - Career and Technical Education - Workgroup to Study Tiered Stackable Credentials Framework: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 1077**, concerning *Education – Career and Technical Education – Workgroup to Study a Tiered Stackable Credentials Framework*.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) plays a critical role in preparing Maryland students for high-demand careers and meeting the evolving needs of our workforce. Establishing a workgroup to study and develop a tiered, stackable credentials framework is a thoughtful and forward-looking step toward strengthening these pathways.

A stackable credential system allows students and workers to earn industry-recognized certifications in progressive stages, building skills over time while maintaining flexibility. This approach benefits high school students entering the workforce, adult learners seeking retraining, and employers looking for clearly defined competencies aligned with industry standards.

By convening stakeholders to examine best practices, workforce demands, and educational alignment, **HB 1077 promotes collaboration between educators, industry leaders, and policymakers. A well-designed framework can improve transparency, reduce duplication, and create clearer pathways from high school to postsecondary education and into meaningful employment.**

Importantly, this bill initiates a study and structured planning process rather than imposing immediate mandates, ensuring that recommendations are data-driven and carefully considered.

Strengthening career pathways through stackable credentials enhances economic mobility for students and supports Maryland's long-term workforce competitiveness.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 1077**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals