



March 25, 2026

Hon. Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Re: Support for Senate Bill 56

Dear Chair Wilkins and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership), I am writing to express our support for SB 56, which would allow Maryland to better track how students move from school to careers across state lines, an essential first step to improving students' workforce outcomes throughout the region.

The Partnership is a nonprofit alliance of nearly 50 leading corporate, university, and nonprofit employers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia committed to championing the region's growth and vitality. Our member organizations provide 647,000 direct and supported jobs through their economic activity across the region, and together we leverage our collective resources to identify shared challenges and offer solutions to the region's critical workforce, transportation, and economic development challenges. The Partnership's Skills and Talent Initiative works with the region's educators and employers to strengthen talent pipelines and ensure learners have access to training and jobs that lead to economic mobility. SB 56 is aligned with our goal of fostering a diverse and skilled talent pipeline needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Our region, spanning Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, is the third largest regional economy in the United States and the seventh largest in the world, with more than 10.2 million residents and a deeply interconnected labor market. Approximately 20 percent of our workforce crosses state lines each day for employment.¹ Despite this regional reality, education and workforce data remain siloed within individual states. As Monica Dodge of the District of Columbia Office of Education to Employment Pathways (DC ETEP) recently testified, this legislation addresses the largest gap in Maryland's current data system: the inability to track outcomes for students and workers who leave the state. SB 56 would enable a first-of-its-kind regional view of how students move from high school to postsecondary education and into the workforce – allowing leaders to understand talent as a shared regional asset rather than three separate pipelines.

SB 56 establishes the foundation for smart, secure, and carefully governed data sharing through a neutral national partner, the Coleridge Initiative. Data will be de-identified and used only for clearly defined research purposes, enabling the region to move from anecdotes to evidence about which education and workforce pathways actually lead to good jobs and where "leaks" in the pipeline occur. This initiative is not a one-time study, but a durable regional data infrastructure that can support future analysis in priority sectors such as healthcare and technology – helping governors, educators, and employers make coordinated, data-driven decisions about the region's talent and economic growth.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to report favorably on SB 56. 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
Greater Washington Partnership
ewest@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com

¹ DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education: [DC, Virginia, and Maryland Launch Groundbreaking Regional Data Initiative to Link Education and Workforce Outcomes, 2025](#).