

February 15, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB653 - JOINT COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 500-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, this letter is in strong **Support of HB653 – Joint Committee on Workforce Development**. This bill would establish the Joint Committee on Workforce Development which would evaluate the condition of the State’s public and private sector workforces, monitor skills shortages, identify strategies to expand employment and evaluate the effectiveness of related programs and policies.

While still dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our business community and various industries, the formation of this important committee is extremely timely. This group needs to focus on how the fast-changing marketplace requires a comprehensive approach to workforce development policymaking that brings all sectors to the table to meet the demands of our industries and workforce.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber recognizes the continued need to focus on the industries and careers which make the State successful right now, however now more than ever, it’s important that this new committee focus on the future workforce needs of our state. Montgomery County and the State of Maryland are prime for the growth of industries such as hospitality (Bethesda is the hospitality headquarters of the country), cyber, quantum and health care.

Although we are glad that this Joint Committee will include both the House and Senate, we do recommend this task force should include experts from the major growing industries of our state, colleges and workforce development boards.

We thank Delegate Qi for sponsoring this legislation and urge the Economic Matters Committee **to vote FAVORABLE** on this bill. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO