



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 133 -- EDUCATION – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – GRADUATION AND
ATTENDANCE CREDIT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

February 4, 2020

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 133 would authorize a county board of education to award high school credit, college credit, or both, to a high school student enrolled in a vocational course in a career and technical education (CTE) program approved by the county board. In addition, the amount of time the student spends during that program may count toward high school attendance requirements.

The Greater Baltimore Committee contends that dual enrollment and CTE coursework leading to industry recognized credentials are critical to prepare students for family-sustaining jobs. Ensuring that students can receive high school credit for CTE courses taken outside the traditional high school program opens up more opportunities for students to gain skills and credentials for jobs in high-growth industry sectors.

This approach is consistent with one of the core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth outlined in the GBC report, *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*:

Workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland's business needs. Maryland's secondary and higher education institutions must offer access to quality instruction at all levels and cultivate a workforce that is well-suited to a modern economy and to the specific needs of Maryland's business sectors.

In addition, the GBC 2020 Legislative Priorities calls for the State to strengthen education and workforce systems to prioritize equity, accountability, and alignment with Maryland's high-growth industry sectors specifically encouraging enhanced support for CTE, dual enrollment, and work-based learning programs in high schools.

For these reasons set forth, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 133.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 65-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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