

Economic Development
The County Commissioners of Kent County
400 High Street, 3rd Floor
Chestertown, MD 21620

January 13, 2020

Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT** of SB0026 Partnership for Workforce Quality Program – Alterations

Dear Senator Kelley:

Kent County Economic Development fully supports Senate Bill 0026 to expand the purpose of the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program. Employers will directly benefit from the program by being able to use grant funding for new employee training, one of the largest initial investment costs of hiring a new employee. Further, the new provisions will allow a broader demographic of both workforce and employers to be served by increasing the percentage of money available and increase in business size requirements.

Several companies in Kent County have directly benefited from this program, and of greater importance, workers have upgraded their skills. This program is actively promoted by our office and the Maryland Department of Commerce as a benefit to remain, expand, and locate in Maryland.

Given the foregoing, Kent County Economic Development respectfully request a favorable review of the proposed bill.

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Williams
Director

cc: Stephen S. Hershey, Senator
Jay A. Jacobs, Delegate
Steven J. Arentz, Delegate
Jefferson L. Ghrist, Delegate
Shelley Heller, County Administrator
Rhona Ray, Director, Office of Policy & Research, Department of Commerce

