



Testimony Senate Bill 26
Partnership for Workforce Quality Program – Alterations

The Mid-Atlantic Region Minority Business Development Agency Advanced Manufacturing Center – Baltimore is a federally funded program operated by the City of Baltimore. We partner with organizations in Maryland to deliver services to a diverse population of manufacturers. We are one of four centers, nationwide, funded by the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. We promote the minority manufacturing community's growth and global competitiveness, better equipping minority manufacturers to create and retain jobs, impact local economies, and compete successfully in domestic and global marketplaces.

We assist our clients and the minority manufacturing community by providing consulting services, contract and financing opportunities, bonding services, building business-to-business alliances, global/ teaming/joint venture opportunities, and executive training.

It is through our hands on engagement and experience we offer this testimony in support of the proposed alterations to the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program. Our clients range in size from 2 to 130 employees. The industries range from food production and processing to clothing manufacturers to the manufacturing of fiber technologies. We have over 200 Maryland based firms in our ecosystem and work closely with 40 firms in a consulting capacity. The majority of firms we represent are in growth mode. Allowing these organizations to access PWQ funds for new employee training would significantly accelerate their ability to grow and improve their ability to recruit and retain talent.

Maryland must position itself as a hub of innovation for the 4th industrial revolution, to do that we must provide the business community with the tools necessary for growth and expansion.

Respectfully Submitted

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