



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

FAVORABLE

Senate Bill 459

**Economic Development – Maryland Small Business Innovation
Research Technical Assistance Program – Alterations
Senate Finance Committee**

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce has always strongly supported providing and enhancing opportunities for all businesses throughout the state of Maryland. Even more so, we fully believe in amplifying technical assistance and increasing access to aid for small and economically disadvantaged Maryland businesses. Without the proper support and access, many small businesses aren't aware of the opportunities and benefits presented to them, especially during economically challenging times such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program, SB 459 will provide Maryland small businesses with additional access to technical support and aid through various grant programs as well as assisting small businesses with attracting and accessing private capital. With opportunities such as training assistance and assessments, along with promoting the application for the federal Small Business Innovation Research Grant Program and the federal Small Business Technology Transfer grant program, SB 459 stand to greatly benefit Maryland small businesses.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on Senate Bill 459.