



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 630 - EDUCATION - ADULT HIGH SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM –
FUNDING AND GRANTS
Sponsor – Senator Ferguson

March 30, 2021

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 630, which mandates funding beginning in fiscal year 2022 for the Adult High School Pilot Program. In addition, the bill requires that a \$250,000 grant be provided to a pilot proposal that was approved prior to January 1, 2021 and would provide instruction at a building located in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City.

The Adult High School Pilot Program was created in 2017 to provide an alternative method for adults who did not graduate from high school to earn a high school diploma and potentially earn postsecondary education credits and industry-recognized certification in an environment that meets the needs of the adult learner. Any such school would be required to provide wraparound services to students and their families.

The funding required by Senate Bill 630 aligns with the GBC 2021 *Maryland General Assembly Legislative Priorities* as well as the recommendations of the GBC report, *Preparing for the Future: A Regional Workforce Development Initiative*, which both advocate for additional state funds for adult basic education and workforce training. In addition, the GBC is actively implementing the recommendations of the *Preparing the Future* report to ensure that the Baltimore region's workforce is trained to meet the region's workforce needs over the next decade.

Finally, SB 630 is also consistent with one of the core pillars in the GBC report *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation* which identified as a condition for a competitive business environment and job growth:

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.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 630.

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 66-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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