

Testimony

of

William C. Taylor

Before the

Maryland General Assembly

Finance Committee

Senate Bill 104

Public Hearing

on the

Labor and Employment – Apprenticeship and

Training Council - Representation

February 2, 2023

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Finance Committee. My name is William C. Taylor of Fort Washington, Maryland.

I am the past Chair of the Maryland State Apprenticeship Council, where I served for 14 years.

My purpose here today is in support of Senate Bill 104 that will include representatives, by black, Latinos, females, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, Consultants to the Council shall include representation by black, Latinos, female, and individuals with disabilities.

This will help ensure the Maryland Apprenticeship Council has diversity in gender and race in its

sponsored programs. We have developed a deep and abiding commitment to ensure there is balanced representation in employment opportunities. I am an advocate for opportunities that will support diversity in the workplace and allow all individuals to become productive and contributing members of our community.

I applaud the enhanced focus on Senate Bill 104 to include diversity on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council. The Council should look like the people it serves and need representation of all eligible workers. Additionally, a more diverse Council will help with recruiting and increase the diversity of

apprentices. I understand there is a shortage of skilled workers in several trade professions. A number of our communities have untrained workers who could fill those vacancies with the help of an apprenticeship. A more diverse Apprenticeship Council will help fill the needs of employers and the unemployed workforce. Also, to include females, Blacks, Latinos, the disabled, and other minorities on the Council will only improve workforce development and working conditions within the State.

We cannot afford to lose sight of diversity at this critical juncture. I ask you to take the necessary action to ensure that the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council include representation of Black, Latinos, females, and persons with disabilities, also Consultants to serve on the Council shall include representation by Black, Latinos, females and individuals with disabilities.

I ask the committee to vote favorably on this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.