



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Jason C. Buckel

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
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DATE: February 22, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 689 – *Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Program – High School Diplomas*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 689.

House Bill 689 requires that each memorandum of understanding establishing a P-TECH school ensures that each student receives a high school diploma immediately following completion of high school graduation requirements. The P-TECH program provides the ability for local school systems to partner with community colleges and local businesses to provide a clear pathway from high school to college and careers. The program requires that P-TECH schools work with local businesses and industry to ensure that the curriculum is economically relevant, and includes the ability for students to get first in-line consideration for job openings with partnering companies. Career clusters in the program include health and biosciences and information technology, among others. This program is one of Maryland's signature initiatives for preparing our young people to enter the workforce. Workforce challenges and identifying talent remain one of the primary challenges of our member companies. Therefore, MTC is supportive of any effort to strengthen the P-TECH program to be more valuable to participating students.

We urge a favorable report.