



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE BILL 1317— HIGHER EDUCATION – MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

March 4, 2014

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is an independent non-partisan regional business advocacy organization of more than 500 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 59-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. It is an organization that prides itself on advocating for changes in public policies that strengthen the business climate while improving the quality of life.

The Greater Baltimore Committee **supports** House Bill 1317 Higher Education – Maryland Technology Internship Program.

House Bill 1317 establishes a Maryland Technology Internship Program that connects Maryland college and university students, graduates and veterans with technology-based businesses in the State. The Shriver Center located at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County would administer the program in collaboration with the Department of Business and Economic Development. Participating businesses would be reimbursed for the stipend awarded to the participants up to \$3,000 a year and the Shriver Center would also prepare an annual report that includes the receipts and expenditures of the program receiving appropriations in the State budget.

The internship program created by HB 1317 would encourage students to remain in Maryland after graduation by showcasing employment opportunities in technology, making connections between students and area business leaders and assisting technology-based businesses with creating an education and workforce pipeline.

In 2010 the Greater Baltimore Committee published *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report that names eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth.

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One of the pillars focused on the need to make strategic state investments in education and workforce:

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.

HB 1317 is consistent with the principles of creating a competitive business environment as it assists in the development of a highly educated and trained workforce and assists in retaining quality talent in our state.

For these reasons the Greater Baltimore Committee **requests a favorable report on House Bill 1317.**