



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 159 -- BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

February 4, 2020

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 159 exempts Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) from certain provisions of the State procurement law, thereby providing BCCC with the same level of procurement authority as other Maryland universities and community colleges.

Following BCCC's 2017 realignment, the school identified barriers to effective and efficient operations in the areas of procurement and capital construction projects. This bill is a response to that effort. The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) contends that BCCC should have the same flexibility and streamlined authority to obtain needed equipment, services and facilities as other Maryland universities and community colleges.

BCCC, like all community colleges, must be able to acquire student support services, equipment and facilities improvements flexibly and in response to changing labor market conditions. Senate Bill 59 will significantly improve BCCC's capacity to serve its students as it prepares them for productive careers in the regional economy. BCCC plays an important role in preparing residents of Baltimore City and the surrounding region for employment in skilled, high-demand jobs. It also enables thousands of young people to obtain a four-year education at local public colleges.

BCCC is an important institution in Baltimore City that affects thousands of students every day. Senate Bill 159 will significantly improve BCCC's operational effectiveness and enable it to achieve its mission of providing excellent outcomes for students and contributing to the region's economy.

This bill is also consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The pillar provides:

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.

By improving inefficiencies in procurement, Senate Bill 159 helps to fulfil these objectives by improving BCCC's ability to succeed.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 159.

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 65-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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