



BDPA of Greater Washington, D.C.
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Washington, D.C. 20003-4303

February 20, 2019

Letter in Support of Cyber Warrior Diversity Program (CWDP) Revisions

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

We, the Members of Black Data Processing Associates of Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area (BDPA-DC), express our combined support of 2019's revisions for Maryland's Higher Education Cyber Warrior Diversity Program (CWDP) promulgated in SENATE BILL 432 (S.B. 432) presently being considered for fiscal year 2020 (FY20).

Our members and stakeholders are information and communications technology (ICT) professionals within the National Capital Region and National BDPA's corporate mission partners transcending all vertical industry sectors currently trading in Maryland. Lack of community awareness, little or no access to technical training and affordable industry certification programs coupled with underdeveloped ICT internship programs and STEM apprenticeships within Maryland's technology workforce pipelines are major global concerns shared by BDPA Members and constituents we currently support in your electoral districts.

For over 40 years, BDPA's mission is to bridge cyber security, information technology (IT) and telecommunications competency gaps across Industry, Academia, under-represented, and underserved communities. Since 1986, BDPA-DC hosts annual High School Coding Competition (HSCC) events with local and regional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI). Toward this end, BDPA-DC continues to advocate and support every high school student graduating from Maryland's systems of schools having at least one (1) ICT industry certification while earning and retaining mastery in at least two (2) of the most in-demand computer programming languages in direct support of emerging software-defined ecosystems fueling Maryland's economy—thus resulting in more robust CWDP pipelines for Maryland.

We urge the General Assembly to approve all recommended revisions and requested funding levels for FY20 in direct support of CWDP and ask that Governor Hogan sign them into law during this current legislative session.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Perry Carter
President
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