

Maryland Tech Council Policy Platform

A Unified Voice to Create Change



**MARYLAND
TECH COUNCIL**
ADVANCING LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY



Dear Members And Policymakers,

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is driven by a core principle: innovation has the power to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders. As Maryland's leading technology and life sciences trade association, we work every day to promote, connect and advocate for the hundreds of companies that are building the next generation of advanced therapies, digital infrastructure, and transformative technologies.

Over the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to connect with innovators, both those already here and those hoping to call Maryland their home soon. Based on these conversations, we have developed a policy platform that reflects the experiences and perspectives of those at the leading edge of the innovation economy in Maryland. It is informed by what we hear in labs and on manufacturing floors, inside data centers and at Maryland's universities, and from entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders. Our goal is that this platform can serve as a valuable guide for policymakers who are weighing difficult decisions and members who are seeking to engage with the legislative process.

Maryland is at an important moment. Advances in life sciences, cybersecurity, quantum, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and digital infrastructure are creating extraordinary opportunities. Whether Maryland captures those opportunities depends on policy choices that support responsible innovation, encourage investment and risk-taking, build and modernize infrastructure, and develop the workforce and research talent that our innovation economy requires.

I encourage you to give due consideration to this platform and the immense potential in Maryland.

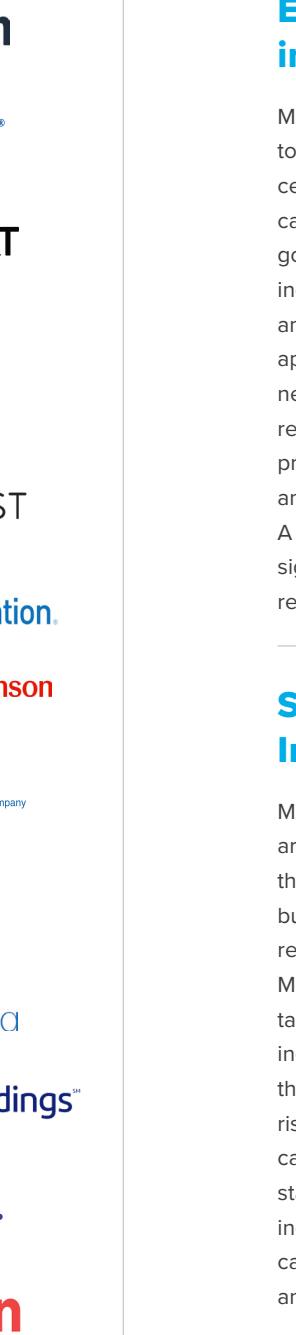
Thank you for your continued partnership and for all that you do to support life sciences and technology in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Kelly Schulz
CEO, Maryland Tech Council

MTC Legislative Coalition



Energy Abundance in Maryland

Maryland's innovation economy relies on abundant energy to power laboratories, manufacturing facilities, and data centers. MTC supports policies that enable greater grid capacity and new generation in the state. MTC believes the goal of providing the electrons needed to support advanced industries can be achieved while also meeting the state's ambitious climate targets. Promoting an "all of the above" approach will ensure the state can secure the resources necessary to support growth and keep energy affordable and reliable for Marylanders. To achieve this, Maryland should prioritize reforms that improve access to interconnection and align state permitting timelines with private investment. A predictable and transparent energy policy framework will signal that Maryland is open for business to companies that require energy-intensive operations.

Supporting Artificial Intelligence

MTC favors policies that harness the positive potential of artificial intelligence while ensuring guardrails to protect the public. AI has begun to level the playing field for small businesses and startups, enabling access to computing resources that were unimaginable just a few years ago. Maryland cannot afford to hamstring its progress with red tape and overregulation. Maryland should seek ways to incorporate AI into state government operations, enabling the civil service to stretch resources further. MTC supports a risk-based regulatory approach that focuses on high-risk use cases and aligns with emerging national and international standards. By pairing clear, narrowly tailored guardrails with incentives for research, testing, and deployment, Maryland can position itself as a hub for trustworthy AI development and adoption.

Business Climate and Economic Competitiveness

Maryland needs to set itself apart from regional competitors as a world-class environment for establishing and running a business. The state's budget challenges are due in part to flatlining private-sector growth, especially in the technology and life sciences industries. Maryland's newly enacted "tech tax" on vital services has increased the cost of research, production, and operations for firms across the state, contributing to stagnation. MTC supports repealing the "tech tax" to put Maryland on a competitive footing to attract cutting-edge industries, along with the jobs and revenue they provide. MTC will oppose new proposals that seek to expand the existing tax or regulatory burden on the life sciences and technology sectors, as we cannot afford to further harm Maryland's standing as a home for innovation.

Continued Support for Critical Programs and Institutions

In the face of budget realities, Maryland should continue supporting institutions and programs essential to the state's life sciences and technology ecosystem. Critical lifelines, such as the Build Our Future grant, the Talent Innovation Fund, MTC's BioHub Maryland, and other grant programs aimed at improving Maryland's workforce and start-up climate should remain intact. Maryland should continue to support fundamental research in life sciences and technology at state universities, as well as specialized workforce development programs across the education system. These investments are the underpinnings for the intellectual property and human capital that Maryland's advanced industries rely on.

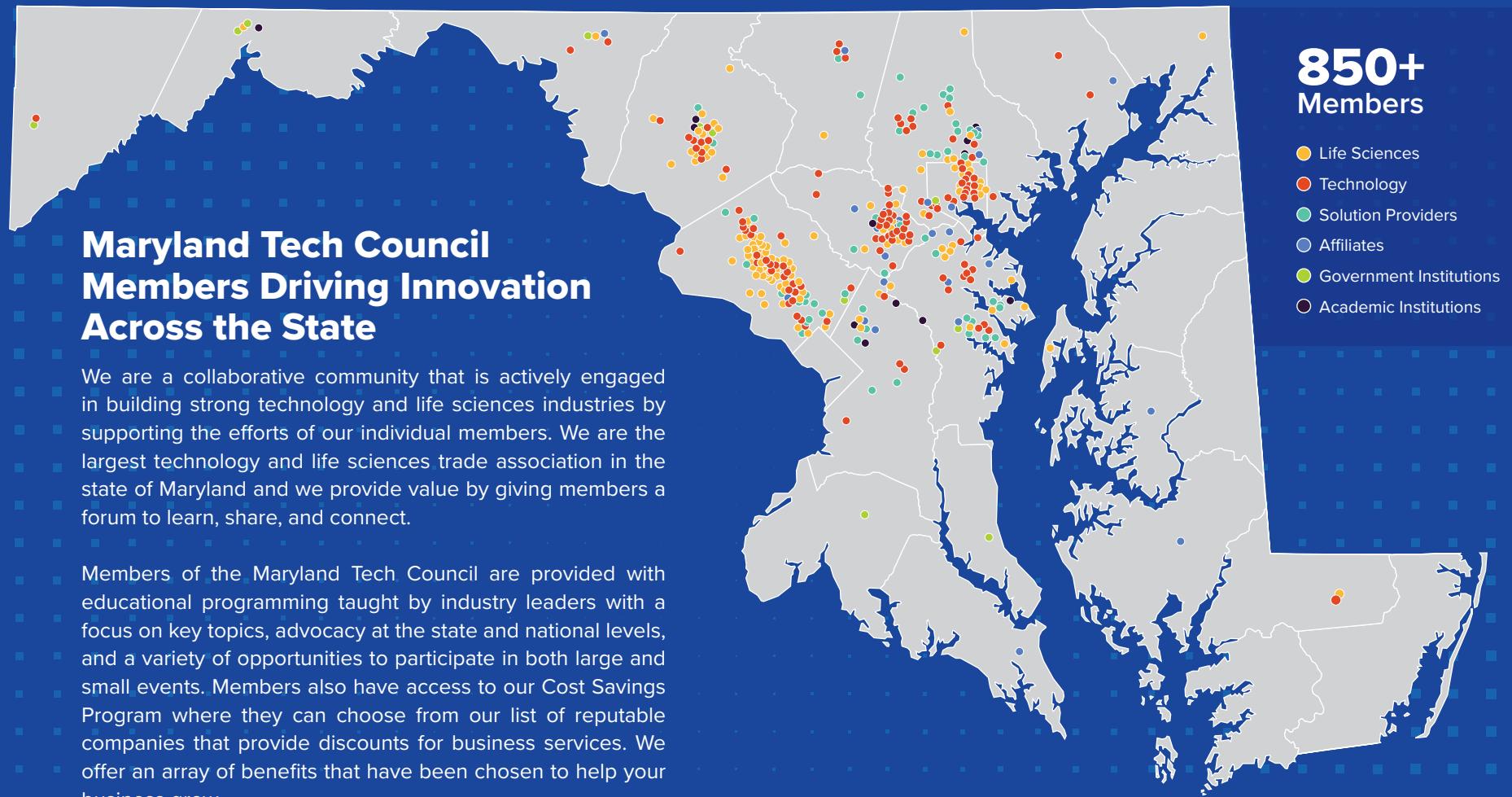
Drug Pricing, Availability, and Upper Payment Limits

MTC opposes the implementation of Upper Payment Limits (UPLs), as they cap insurance reimbursement without guaranteeing lower out-of-pocket costs for patients. Price controls threaten the private investment needed to develop new cures while failing to address the root causes of high drug prices. MTC urges policymakers to reject UPLs and focus on regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to ensure negotiated rebates are passed directly to patients. Maryland should seek solutions that increase transparency across the drug supply chain, promote value-based care, and preserve the incentives that have made the state a national leader in life sciences. MTC stands ready to work with policymakers and patient advocates on approaches that reduce costs at the pharmacy counter without undermining access to treatment.

Stay Engaged with the Maryland Tech Council During Session

We know your time is valuable. That's why we'll continue to provide you with timely updates on our advocacy efforts, legislative developments, and opportunities to engage.

Contact us at advocacy@mdtechcouncil.com or visit mdtechcouncil.com to get involved in policy advocacy this year.



Maryland Tech Council Members Driving Innovation Across the State

We are a collaborative community that is actively engaged in building strong technology and life sciences industries by supporting the efforts of our individual members. We are the largest technology and life sciences trade association in the state of Maryland and we provide value by giving members a forum to learn, share, and connect.

Members of the Maryland Tech Council are provided with educational programming taught by industry leaders with a focus on key topics, advocacy at the state and national levels, and a variety of opportunities to participate in both large and small events. Members also have access to our Cost Savings Program where they can choose from our list of reputable companies that provide discounts for business services. We offer an array of benefits that have been chosen to help your business grow.



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