



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director  
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228  
410-925-2183  
pssamed@gmail.com  
www.pssam.org

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BILL: Senate Bill 588  
TITLE: Career Education Act of 2019  
DATE: March 6, 2019  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM  
Email: [pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com); Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 588 requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to develop a mobile application to target employers in industries in which industry skills align with the skills developed through membership in a certain student organization; requiring county boards of education to treat the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education; requiring a county board to pay any fees related to career technology student organizations; etc.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 588.

Local superintendents are focused on providing strong college and career readiness programs for all graduating students. Career Technology Programs (CTE) have been expanding and we know there are many students that will not be entering college after graduation. We have placed a high priority on our CTE programs to provide our students with many more options during high school. We appreciate the intent of Senate Bill 588, but we believe it is ill-timed.

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) has been working for several years on developing policies and strategies that will ultimately redefine our current education policies and practices. As a part of their work, the Kirwan Commission has been extensively studying all components of career and technology education. Their preliminary report included comprehensive recommendations. Their final report is expected to be released very shortly. PSSAM believes a more prudent path is to focus on the Kirwan Commission recommendations to create world class career and technology programs in all local school systems.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 588 and requests an unfavorable committee report.