



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1018 – Labor and Employment – Economic Stabilization Act – Revisions**  
**House Economic Matters Committee**  
**February 25, 2020**

## **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards**  
**President**  
**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB 1018 – Labor and Employment – Economic Stabilization Act – Revisions. My name is Donna S. Edwards and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members I offer the following comments.

Closures of businesses leave workers and their families hung out to dry, and oftentimes announcements of closures come with little to no notice, at all. This leaves hundreds of impacted workers in an awful position, having to race out to find new work, almost always at a lower salary, just to keep food on the table. A full 40% of Americans cannot afford a \$400 emergency, and the majority are one or two paychecks away from economic disaster<sup>1</sup>. Layoffs and downsizing only exacerbates this existing problem for American workers. It is imperative that advance notice of business closures and protection of workers is strengthened so that Marylanders do not get left in the cold to fend for themselves by corporate executives who are not affected by the decision to close or significantly downsize business operations.

HB 1018 requires the Secretary promulgate mandatory guidelines for employers (with over 50 employees) on proper notice on their decision to downsize operations or close up shop, requiring 90 days' notice to workers, bargaining representatives, and all elected officials in the jurisdiction where the reduction of operations will occur. With recent business closures around the State having sometimes no notice given, or sometimes only a few weeks, workers and their families are put in a desperate situation – through no fault of their own – forcing them to struggle much harder, than if they were given much more time to plan financially seek new employment.

**We ask for a favorable report on HB 1018.**

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Reserve - <https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/files/2017-report-economic-well-being-us-households-201805.pdf>