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Testimony of
Association of Supervisory and Administrative
School Personnel
In
Support of HB 232
Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability
Before The
Finance Committee

Chair : Delores G. Kelley
Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman
February 13, 2020

Position: Support

PRESIDENT
Jeffery J. Parker
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Doris A. Reed
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Hugh M. Weathers



AFL-CIO, Local 109



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, this testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Association of Supervisory and Administrative School Personnel (ASASP) expressing our support for SB Bill 232- Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability.

As an organization that advocates for worker's rights, better jobs, better wages, and better contracts. We firmly support this legislative initiative that would attempt to improve a process that would provide more opportunities for small business contractors. This initiative is essential if the state of Maryland expects more local small business participation in their procurement process. Smaller businesses/contractors have a right to participate in a fair process and the State should have the responsibility to ensure that a fair process is created.

The State of Maryland has the highest prevailing wage threshold in the Nation and with a requirement of 50% State funding, it can become very costly and most likely impossible for the average small business owner/contractor to participate in the Maryland Board of Public Works request for proposal process. The lack of our local small business participation has a ripple effect on our local communities and economy.

- If local contractors cannot afford to bid for the contracts that causes less job opportunities for the men and women who live in these communities.
- If fewer jobs are being created in the community then less revenue is being generated and our local economy suffers.
- If our local economy is not doing well that negatively impacts everything.

The only way we can expect small businesses to be able to prosper in today's society is by leveling the playing field and providing some assurances. By eliminating the percentage requirement, you will help to remove a potential roadblock for small business owners /contractors and potentially provide many communities the opportunity to thrive.

The Association of Supervisory and Administrative School Personnel adamantly urges the committee to support Senate Bill 232.

Thank you.