



# Eastern Atlantic States

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## REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

February 27, 2020

Chair Delores Kelly  
Finance Committee  
Senate of Maryland

Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman and distinguished Committee Members,

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, we proudly SUPPORT SB 641 - Maryland Worker Wage Protection Act. Wage theft in Maryland in an epidemic - 2017 study found 580,000 workers are cheated out of \$875 million annually. While \$1,500 may seem like a small amount of money to people in this room, that is meals, transit passes, and health coverage all put in jeopardy for our most vulnerable employees. The problem is even more dramatic in the trades as fly-by-night and insolvent subcontractors cannot be traced after jobs are completed so there is little recourse for wage theft.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters supports SB 641 as it closes three key loopholes:

- Protects employees from retaliation so that victims of wage theft can enforce their right to be paid without fear of being fired, losing hours, or being threatened.
- Promotes transparency by requiring that paystubs contain information showing how pay was calculated, such as hours worked, pay rate, and overtime.
- Clarifies that employees are broadly protected by wage laws.

We thank the committee for its consideration of SB 641 and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Mungu Sanchez  
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters