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January 28, 2021

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer, Esq.  
Office of the Attorney General

Re: SB0107 – Labor and Employment – Secure Maryland Wage Act – **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General urges the Finance Committee to favorably report SB 107, Senator Hayes' legislation to require that employees who are employed to work at a heightened security interest location be paid "not less than the combined amount of the wage and fringe benefit rate in effect" the prior year for "Guard I classification for the applicable county established by the United States Secretary of Labor under §§ 6701 through 6707 of the Federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965." The bill defines "heightened security interest locations" to include the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Pennsylvania Station in Baltimore, or the Port of Baltimore.

Workers employed in heightened security interest locations should be compensated commensurate with the risks they take to perform their duties.<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 107 recognizes that fundamental fact and requires employees stationed 50 percent or more at three locations in Maryland be paid overtime and a fair wage.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 107.

cc: Committee Members

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<sup>1</sup> See Transcript of the conversation with Wharton legal studies and business ethics professor Robert Hughes by WHARTON SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENN., *It's a Dangerous Job – but Does Someone Have to Do It?*, (Apr. 1, 2019), <https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/dangerous-jobs-ethics/> ("[R]isks that are great enough that it's necessary to pay people more — either to compensate them fairly for those risks, or as an inducement to get them to take the job").