



February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building Room 231  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 205: Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2024**  
**Position - Support**

I would like to thank Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby as well as Members of the House Economic Matters Committee for allowing us to submit testimony on behalf of the Ironworkers Local 5 in **SUPPORT** of **HB 205**.

The Ironworkers of Local 5, based in Largo, Prince George's County, over a thousand members actively working in the state of Maryland. Additionally, we also host our registered apprenticeship program here and actively train new apprentices for the industry.

Many of our members in the trades rely on work in the construction industry on a project-by-project basis, meaning that once an ironworker, or another craftsperson of the building trades, completes working with a contractor on constructing a new facility or infrastructure project, they must wait to be dispatched to the next project, which may last days or weeks. As a result, we need to insure we can protect workers who may become job-insecure in the time between projects.

Therefore, making the appropriate improvements with Unemployment Insurance can help our tradesmen and apprentices ensure that they can continue to sustain themselves as they wait to be put back to work with another contractor or another project.

Lastly, tying these minimum and maximum benefits to inflation can help maintain that these benefits stay on par with our tradesmen's wages for years to come. And the new limits will be phased in over the next few years to reduce disruption, and will match the benefits of 26 other states.

We implore the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 205.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Feculak  
Political Coordinator Mid-Atlantic States District Council  
Iron Workers