



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 479 - Motor Vehicles - Work Zone Speed Control Systems - Revisions
(Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 22, 2024**

SUPPORT

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

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 479. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

SB 479 implements the recommendations of Lt. Governor Aruna Miller's Work Zone Safety Group, following the tragic deaths of six roadway construction workers at the hands of a driver. SB 479 lifts caps on automated speed cameras in work zones, raises the maximum citations, and dedicates portions of the revenue to additional road safety equipment and awareness campaigns.

Our state's essential infrastructure projects rely on thousands of road workers. In 2023 alone, there were over 1200 incidents where Maryland drivers crashed into work zones.¹ These workers deserve state protections to prevent the next horrible accident. Increased fines and awareness will help save lives. We cannot afford to wait.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 479.

¹ David Collins. "Exclusive: Lt. Gov. Miller shares changes proposed by Road Worker Protection Act." WBAL-TV. January 18, 2024.