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Walter L. Simmons, President

Bill Number:	Senate Bill 354
Title:	Montgomery County and Prince George's County – Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program
Committee:	Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date:	February 14, 2024
Position:	FAVORABLE

Employ Prince George's, Inc. ("EPG") is a nonprofit organization based in Prince George's County, Maryland. EPG serves as the Administrative and Fiscal Agent of the Prince George's County Local Workforce Development Board and is responsible for regulating policy development and the administration of workforce activities related to services and programs funded by the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). Under the leadership of EPG, the Prince George's County Local Workforce Development Area serves over 30,000 jobseekers and 4,000 businesses annually.

EPG is dedicated to empowering individuals in our community by connecting them with meaningful employment opportunities and supportive services. We understand the devastating impact that eviction can have on individuals and families, particularly those who are already facing unemployment or underemployment. Senate Bill 354 presents a proactive and innovative approach to addressing the root causes of eviction by connecting rent court litigants with workforce development services.

This legislation represents a crucial step towards breaking the cycle of poverty that often leads individuals to rent court in the first place. By reaching those who are unemployed or underemployed at the courthouse, we can intervene early and provide them with the resources they need to stabilize their housing situation and achieve economic stability. The Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program will not only help individuals avoid eviction but also empower them to access job opportunities, training programs, and wraparound services that can lead to long-term success.

SB 354 aligns with our mission to promote economic opportunity and social equity in Prince George's County and beyond. We believe that by implementing this pilot program, we can make significant strides towards creating a more just and equitable society for all residents. For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 354.