

**SB26 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Revisions
(Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)
Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2025**

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee,

My name is Rayneika Robinson, I serve as the proud President of AFSCME Local 3661. Our union represents workers in the Division of Probation and Parole in the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Our members engage in a wide variety of functions including overseeing individuals on home detention to preparing warrants for parole violators. Ultimately, we share a common mission: to keep our communities safe and help individuals reintegrate into their communities.

I am proud, but also saddened, to testify in support of SB26. This legislation is named in honor of one of our fallen agents, Davis Martinez, who was murdered while conducting a routine home visit. Prior to this event, we had warned our employer that our workers were facing safety risks and action needed to be taken. On the day he died, Agent Martinez left the field office in the morning to conduct a home visit of a parolee. Hour after hour after hour went by over the course of the day and Agent Martinez had not returned. Ultimately, it was discovered that Agent Martinez was murdered at the parolee's home.

Agent Martinez's death may have been preventable had our employer had proper plans, procedures, and the necessary personal protective equipment to keep Agents safe. Recently, members of this committee were made aware of the citation issued against DPSCS by MOSH, which found that the Department failed to "furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. . ." Additionally, the citation from MOSH recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive and effective written workplace violence prevention program.

The Davis Martinez Act will require MOSH to establish a comprehensive workplace violence prevention standard to ensure all public employees are prepared, trained, and knowledgeable on how to respond in situations that could otherwise cause them bodily harm or their life. Please support SB26 to honor the legacy of Agent Davis Martinez.