



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1424 - Catastrophic Event Account, Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund, and Powers of the Attorney General - Alterations  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
March 27, 2025**

**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 HB 1424 as currently written. 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.

Federal workers often face job instability due to reasons out of their control and our complex governmental system. Because of this, they may face financial hardship due to a loss of or delay in income. HB 1424 takes critical steps in protecting the individuals in our state who dedicate their careers to federal service. In addition to providing much-needed assistance to workers, we applaud expanding the Attorney General's authority in taking legal action to protect residents and allocating funds to carry out these duties.

Maryland is home to nearly 225,000 federal workers who work directly or indirectly for the federal government and play a key role in our everyday lives. They are engineers, customs officers, trades professionals, researchers, HR specialists, and more. Thousands of hard-working employees serve our communities with vital services, but thousands have already lost their jobs, with hundreds of thousands more facing impending job loss.<sup>1</sup> This legislation proposes a number of measures to mitigate the impending challenges that lie ahead for these individuals including:

- Allowing the Catastrophic Event Account to cover former Maryland residents impacted by closure, relocation or mass layoff of a unit of the Federal Government.

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<sup>1</sup> Dorn, Sarah and Bohannon, Molly, "Here's Where Trump's Government Layoffs Are Targeted—As Pentagon Reportedly Plans 60,000 Job Cuts." Forbes. March 2025.

- Expanding the Federal Government Assistance Loan Fund to apply to federal government employees and employees working in federal units who have been terminated because of closure, relocation, or mass layoff.
- Permitting the Department of Labor to forgive a loan from the Fund.
- Expanding the Attorney General's authority in taking legal action to protect residents from federal inaction or harm resulting in failure to be paid or job displacement or loss. Additionally, this legislation allocates necessary funding to the Office to carry out these duties.

Federal workers maintain public safety, deliver essential services, and support daily functions of government that we all rely on. As they continue to face unpredictable hardship, HB 1424 ensures our federal workforce is protected and supported during these uncertain times.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 1424 as currently written.