



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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## **HB 500 - Procurement Reform Act of 2025 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee March 26, 2025**

### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 500. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 500 updates our state's procurement process to increase transparency and streamline efficiency, ensuring responsible use of public dollars. Among the several key measures in this legislation is its emphasis on good labor practices.

This legislation creates a "good labor practices evaluation factor" that can be used to evaluate competitive proposals. To obtain this evaluation factor and be included on the Commissioner's list of good labor practices businesses to be given a preference when bidding for a contract, the business must agree to directly employ workers as W-2 employees, pay all workers by check or electronic means, comply with the law, and adhere to reporting and notification requirements. This encourages businesses seeking to be awarded a public contract to uphold the highest employment standard.

Additionally, this legislation combats our state's severe workforce shortage by requiring contractors of a covered procurement to use registered apprentices. This helps train the next generation of skilled workers while creating a sustainable job pipeline into crucial industries. In expanding access to apprenticeship opportunities, especially in public works contracts, we are enhancing family-supporting job growth and bolstering our state and local economies.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 500.