



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 431 - Registered Apprenticeships For a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act
House Economic Matters Committee
March 25, 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 SB 431. 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.

We support SB 431 as passed by the Senate. We appreciate the collaboration with the Governor's team and DLI team to address the concerns of all stakeholders.

While we believe the reporting on individual worker's outcomes could be strengthened, the bill as amended lays a foundation for providing basic outcome information that will help evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

Transparency and accountability of costs, new apprenticeships, intermediaries, and sponsors are essential to ensuring the efficacy of the program. The success of individual workers completing an apprenticeship program that molds into a prosperous career will be the ultimate triumph of the program.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 431.