



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 850 - Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and Apprentices - Establishment
Senate Finance Committee
March 25, 2025**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 850. 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 850 aims to strengthen transparency and compliance in Maryland's public works contracts by establishing the Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and Apprentices that includes the voices of key industry stakeholders. The workgroup would be tasked with studying the most efficient and cost-effective way to create a publicly accessible data dashboard that details such things as contractor and subcontractor information, wages, job classification, and apprentice participation.

This tool has proven in New York and Nevada to ensure that public projects comply with the law and contribute to a strong labor market. Additionally, as our state looks to significantly expand apprenticeships, this legislation takes necessary steps in addressing and mitigating the lack of data we have to make and achieve realistic benchmarks.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 850.