### **HB 850 - Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Dat**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards



### MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer Gerald W. Jackson

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.

### **SUPPORT HB 850 - Procurement - Public Work Contrac**

Uploaded by: Jason Ascher

### **Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association**

### **Executive Board**

Chris Madello Steamfitter Local 602 Washington D.C. Metro President

Kris Begolly Plumbers & Pipefitter Local 110 Norfolk, VA Vice President

Scott Upole Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 489 Cumberland, MD Secretary-Treasurer

Terriea "T" Smalls Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 Washington D.C. Metro

Nate Davenport Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 10 Richmond/Roanoke

Pasquale Petrovia Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 486 Baltimore

Robert Cooper Sprinkler Fitter Local 669 Maryland, DC, Virginia

#### **Finance Committee**

**To:** Senator Pam Beidle, Chair; Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee **From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT HB 850 – Procurement – Public Work Contracts – Data Dashboard (Maryland Public Workers and Apprenticeship Transparency Act)

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent 10,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitter, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 850.** 

When spending taxpayer dollars, it is essential to make sure it's clear how the money is being spent and where. Ensuring that the public can easily see where the money is going and that contractors hired by the state is following all the laws governing how the money is spent. In terms of public construction that means prevailing wage projects.

HB 850 will create a public visual database of all prevailing wage project and show what contractors are on the construction site, how many workers in each craft they have, and how much they are paying them in wages and benefits. With wage theft and misclassification being one of the biggest problems in the construction industry this website will help show the public it is not happening on public construction projects. It will also show how many workers are apprentices and what programs they are training with.

Finding a way to fund the creation of these databases is vital to the public construction industry transparency and maintaining public trust.

For the reasons previously mentioned, I ask you to SUPPORT HB 850.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher Political Director

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



# **DNW HB 850 Testimony (Senate).pdf** Uploaded by: Nicole Williams

### NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Legislative District 22 Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Chair, Public Safety Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation



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The Maryland House of Delegates
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle Chair of the Senate Finance Committee 3 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 850

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and the members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams, and I will be testifying in favor of House Bill 850, also known as **Workgroup** on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and Apprentices - Establishment.

This bill is cross-filed with SB 3 and has been amended since its original introduction to provide for the establishment of a workgroup, staffed by the Maryland Department of Labor, to study the creation of a public-facing dashboard with information regarding workers and wages for ongoing public works contracts. This workgroup would solicit input from a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the House and Senate, a representative from the Department of Labor, a representative from the office of the Commissioner on Labor and Industry, a representative of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades Council, a representative of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, and a representative of the Steamfitters Union Local 602. This workgroup would then provide recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 7th, 2027 on the best path forward for the creation of this data dashboard.

Studying the development of such a dashboard with the end goal of its eventual implementation would reflect our state's commitment to transparency, fair wages, and the development of a skilled and competitive workforce. By working towards this, Maryland would demonstrate its responsible use of state resources to both workers and taxpayers while elevating our standards for equitable labor practices. For these reasons, I urge this committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 850.

Sincerely,

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

# Chris Madello\_UA Steamfitters Local 602\_Testimony\_ Uploaded by: Roger Manno

### Journeymen Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



### Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730 AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS MADELLO, BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TREASURER, UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602
IN SUPPORT OF THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND PREVAILING WAGE
TRANSPARENCY ACT (SB3 / HB850)

### **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairs Pena-Melnyk and Beidle, and Members of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance Committee:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Steamfitters Local 602, please accept this letter in strong support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act, legislation that advances transparency, accountability, and fairness in Maryland's workforce development.

The UA Steamfitters Local 602 represents some 4,900 Journeymen, 1100 Apprentices, and 205 signatory Mechanical Construction and Service Contractors in the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Process Piping Industry throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. Our economic and workforce footprint is enormous, including having performed some 7,231,500 work hours in 2020 alone. We understand how to make Maryland work, because it's what we do, each and every day.

Our work is a business-labor partnership, and our contractor affiliates, represented by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington (MCAMW), is a powerful driver of local economies throughout the region, generating some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year.

The Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act is critical legislation that will significantly enhance transparency and compliance in Maryland's public work contracts. Modeled after successful measures in Nevada and New York, this Act establishes public databases to track and monitor apprenticeship programs and prevailing wage compliance, ensuring that state-funded projects uphold the highest standards of fairness and accountability.

### **Key Provisions of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act:**

### 1. Certified Apprenticeship Database:

- This database will provide detailed information about apprentices working on public projects, including their certification status, trade, and program sponsor. It promotes transparency and accountability within Maryland's apprenticeship programs while protecting individual privacy.
- By increasing visibility, this provision supports workforce development by creating a pipeline of certified, skilled workers for Maryland's labor needs.

### 2. Prevailing Wage Payroll Records Database:

- Inspired by New York's successful model, this database will track key wage and benefit information for workers employed on state-funded projects. It ensures that contractors comply with Maryland's prevailing wage laws and that workers receive fair compensation.
- Weekly reporting requirements will hold contractors accountable and encourage adherence to wage standards, while privacy safeguards ensure sensitive employee information is protected.

### 3. Enhanced Oversight and Enforcement:

- By requiring regular reporting and public access to this data, the Act promotes accountability and empowers citizens to verify compliance with state labor laws.
- Non-compliance will result in appropriate penalties, ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and ethically.

### Benefits-to-Maryland:

- Transparency: This legislation will empower Maryland citizens, advocacy groups, and policymakers to verify compliance with fair wage standards, ensuring that state-funded projects benefit workers and taxpayers alike.
- Workforce Development: Highlighting apprenticeship programs will strengthen Maryland's skilled trades, creating a robust workforce pipeline that meets the state's current and future labor needs.
- Fairness and Accountability: Contractors and subcontractors will be held accountable, fostering an environment of fair competition and ethical practices in state-funded projects.

### **Lessons from Other States:**

Nevada and New York have demonstrated the effectiveness of such measures. Nevada's public database of certified apprentices bolstered accountability and workforce development, while New York's prevailing wage database ensured wage compliance on publicly funded projects. By combining these successful models, Maryland has the opportunity to lead the nation in labor transparency and fairness.

In conclusion, the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act represents a significant step forward for our state's workforce and economy. It ensures responsible use of state funds, protects workers, and fosters a skilled, fair, and transparent labor market.

I respectfully urge the committees to issue a favorable report on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Madello

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

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**UA Steamfitters Local 602** 

# Chris Madello\_UA Steamfitters Local 602\_Testimony\_ Uploaded by: Roger Manno

### Journeymen Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



### Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

# MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND PREVAILING WAGE TRANSPARENCY ACT: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairs Wilson and Beidle, and members of both the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Steamfitters Local 602, please accept this letter in strong support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act, legislation that advances transparency, accountability, and fairness in Maryland's workforce development.

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- Non-compliance will result in appropriate penalties, ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and ethically.

### **Benefits to Maryland:**

- Transparency: This legislation will empower Maryland citizens, advocacy groups, and policymakers to verify compliance with fair wage standards, ensuring that state-funded projects benefit workers and taxpayers alike.
- Workforce Development: Highlighting apprenticeship programs will strengthen Maryland's skilled trades, creating a robust workforce pipeline that meets the state's current and future labor needs.
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### **Lessons from Other States:**

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In conclusion, the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act represents a significant step forward for our state's workforce and economy. It ensures responsible use of state funds, protects workers, and fosters a skilled, fair, and transparent labor market.

I respectfully urge the committees to issue a favorable report on the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act.

### Journeymen Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



### Local Union No. 602

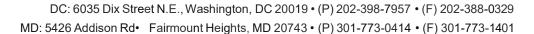
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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

Sincerely,

Chris Madello Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer UA Steamfitters Local 602

# Jonathan Bolden\_RSC Mechanical\_Testimony\_SB3 HB850 Uploaded by: Roger Manno





### www.rsccompany.com

February 3, 2025

Senate Finance Committee
House Health and Government Operations
Committee
Annapolis, MD 2I401

Re: Maryland Apprenticeship And Prevailing Wage Transparency Act (SB3 / HB850)

Dear Chairs Pena-Melnyk and Beidle, and Members of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance Committee:

For over thirty years, I have built and sustained my business, RSC Electrical & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., as a proud union-certified MBE contractor. Running a small business in the construction industry has always been a challenge, but in recent years, those challenges have become increasingly insurmountable. I employ a full union shop. I pay my workers good wages, sometimes struggling to do so, because I believe in creating strong, middle-class careers. But competing in this industry is never easy, and the reality is that it's getting harder by the day.

Every time I bid on a project, I'm up against contractors who cut corners, not just on materials but on people. There are those who misclassify workers to skirt payroll taxes and avoid providing benefits. Others outright pay their workforce off the books, undercutting responsible businesses like mine that follow the law. Some even rely on labor traffickers who exploit vulnerable workers with little recourse. Meanwhile, I do everything by the book—because that's how I was taught, and that's how my workers deserve to be treated. But at the end of the day, these dishonest practices create an impossible and unfair playing field for small, legitimate businesses like mine.

I support SB3 / HB850 because it provides a measure of transparency that is desperately needed. By tracking payroll and certified apprentices, we can ensure that those who are awarded public contracts are playing by the rules. Other states have already taken similar steps—New York implemented a prevailing wage database that led to a substantial reduction in wage theft and worker misclassification. Nevada has seen a marked increase in apprenticeship completion rates because of stronger accountability measures. Maryland should not lag behind when solutions already exist and have proven effective.

If this legislation is not enacted, businesses like mine will continue to struggle under the weight of an industry rigged in favor of those who ignore the rules. We need accessible, enforceable tools to ensure that every contractor is competing fairly and that workers receive the wages they are legally owed. This bill is not just about compliance; it is about protecting businesses that are trying to do things the right way and ensuring that workers have access to good jobs that allow them to support their families. I urge the committee to pass this legislation so that responsible businesses like mine have a fighting chance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Bolden
Owner, RSC Electrical & Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

# Julius Wright\_UA Plumbers & Gasfitters 5\_SB3 and H Uploaded by: Roger Manno



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5





4755 Walden Ln. Lanham, MD 20706 • 301-899-7861 (T) • 301-899-7868 (F)

# TESTIMONY OF JULIUS WRIGHT UA PLUMBERS & GASFITTERS LOCAL 5 IN SUPPORT OF THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND PREVAILING WAGE TRANSPARENCY ACT (SB3 / HB850) FAVORABLE

Dear Chairs Wilson and Beidle, and Members of the House Economic Matters and Senate Finance Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act. My name is Julius Wright, and I represent UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, which has trained and employed skilled tradespeople in the Washington, D.C. area since 1890. With over 1,800 highly trained professionals, including 300 apprentices, Local 5 upholds industry excellence and safety.

This legislation strengthens Maryland's labor standards, ensures responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and combats wage theft and worker misclassification. By establishing databases to monitor prevailing wage compliance and apprenticeship programs, Maryland follows successful models from states like Nevada and New York.

Preventing Fraud and Protecting Workers: Wage theft and misclassification deny workers fair wages and benefits while allowing bad actors to evade tax obligations. Transparency in prevailing wage compliance, as seen in New York, reduces fraud and ensures fair competition among contractors.

Building a Stronger Workforce: Maryland's union apprenticeship programs set the industry standard. A statewide apprenticeship database will enhance accountability, track program success, and strengthen workforce development. Nevada has shown that such oversight increases program completion rates and economic growth.

A Sound Economic Investment: Recovering lost tax revenue from wage theft and misclassification allows Maryland to reinvest in infrastructure and essential services. Ensuring fair competition benefits responsible contractors and the state economy.

The Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act is a smart investment that strengthens our workforce, protects taxpayers, and ensures fair labor practices. I urge your support to improve oversight, workforce development, and economic integrity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julius Wright
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

# **M&A\_T Smalls\_Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5\_Testimo**Uploaded by: Roger Manno



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

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TESTIMONY OF TERRIEA "T" SMALLS, BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TREASURER, UA PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL 5
IN SUPPORT OF THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND PREVAILING WAGE TRANSPARENCY
ACT (SB3 / HB850)
FAVORABLE

Dear Chairs Pena-Melnyk and Beidle, and Members of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act.

My name is Terriea "T" Smalls, and I am the Business Manager for UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5. My local has been installing, maintaining and servicing the waste, water & gas systems in the Washington D.C. area since 1890. We represent some 1,800 of the most highly-skilled construction workers to be found anywhere, including over 300 apprentices, which provide the workforce excellence across some 65 signatory construction contractors throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. thousands of construction workers who are the backbone of Maryland's infrastructure.

The Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act is not just about fairness; it is a smart investment in Maryland's economic and regulatory integrity. By creating databases to monitor prevailing wage compliance and apprenticeship programs, the legislation addresses critical issues in our industry—wage theft, worker misclassification, and associated fraud—that have long eroded trust, fairness, and state revenues.

The Nevada and New York bills, on which the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act is modeled, show us what is possible. Nevada's apprenticeship database has improved transparency and accountability in workforce development, ensuring that apprenticeship programs deliver real value to workers and employers. Similarly, New York's prevailing wage compliance database has led to measurable reductions in wage theft, unemployment insurance (UI) fraud, workers' compensation fraud, and FICA underreporting. These measures not only protect workers but also recover funds that would otherwise be lost to unethical practices, directly benefiting state revenues.

The construction industry has seen significant challenges related to wage theft and misclassification. When contractors misclassify employees as independent contractors, they avoid paying unemployment insurance, workers' compensation premiums, and payroll taxes. This undermines law-abiding contractors and drains public resources. New York's prevailing wage transparency system has shown that robust data tracking can help recapture these lost funds, ensuring that public projects truly serve the public good. Maryland stands to gain significantly by following suit.



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO



4755 Walden Ln. Lanham, MD 20706 • 301-899-7861 (T) • 301-899-7868 (F)

From a financial perspective, these databases will ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as intended, upholding prevailing wage laws and protecting the integrity of state-funded projects. Capturing previously unrealized revenues from wage theft and misclassification will strengthen the state's ability to invest in critical programs and infrastructure. Contractors who comply with the rules will also benefit from a level playing field, fostering fair competition and ethical practices.

The apprenticeship database is another cornerstone of this legislation. Maryland's union apprenticeship programs set the industry standard for quality and rigor. By tracking certifications, trades, and program outcomes, this database will ensure that apprenticeship sponsors deliver meaningful training and produce a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of our state's growing economy. Nevada's experience shows that such transparency boosts program participation and completion rates, creating a reliable pipeline of qualified workers.

This is not a partisan issue—it's a matter of economic sense and fairness. States like Nevada and New York have already demonstrated that transparency and accountability in public works benefit workers, businesses, and taxpayers alike. The Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act brings Maryland in line with these best practices, ensuring that our state leads by example. In closing, the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act is a win for Maryland's workers, contractors, and taxpayers. It protects against exploitation, fosters fair competition, and strengthens state revenues by addressing systemic abuses. For the men and women who build our state, it's a commitment to dignity and respect. For our economy, it's a safeguard against waste and fraud. I urge you to support this critical legislation and help Maryland realize its full potential. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

# Roger Manno\_Manno & Associates LLC\_Testimony\_SB3 H Uploaded by: Roger Manno

### Roger P. Manno, Esq. | Manno & Associates LLC

Attorney | Lobbyist | Maryland Senator and Delegate (Ret.)

\*\*Admitted to practice law in MD and DC
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February 28, 2005

Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk Chair House Health and Government Operations Committee 240 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act (HB850 / SB3) - Favorable

Dear Chairs Pena-Melnyk and Beidle, and Members of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance Committees:

On behalf of my clients, the Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association (UA), including UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 and UA Steamfitters Local 602, as well as the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act, critical legislation that advances workforce accountability, fair competition, and safeguards public investments in infrastructure projects.

### **Data-Driven Approach to Workforce Integrity**

This legislation seeks to establish two public databases: one for tracking certified apprenticeships and another for ensuring compliance with prevailing wage laws. By doing so, Maryland will align itself with successful models already implemented in Nevada and New York, where similar systems have significantly curbed fraud and increased transparency in public works projects.

### **Lessons from New York**

- New York's prevailing wage compliance database has led to an 18% reduction in wage theft cases and a 21% increase in recovered lost wages since its implementation.
- The state has also seen a decline in unemployment insurance (UI) fraud, as verified payroll records provide a verifiable audit trail for regulators.

### **Lessons from Nevada**

- Nevada's apprenticeship tracking system has contributed to a 12% increase in apprenticeship completion rates and greater accountability for program sponsors.
- The system has also improved workforce planning by providing policymakers and employers with real-time insights into labor supply and demand.

### **Combating Wage Theft and Worker Misclassification**

Wage theft and worker misclassification continue to present systemic challenges in Maryland's construction industry. Unscrupulous contractors misclassify workers as independent contractors, evading payroll taxes, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance contributions. This creates an uneven playing field for lawabiding businesses and leads to significant losses in state revenue.

By implementing a statewide certified payroll database, Maryland will:

- Enhance regulatory oversight to detect and prevent wage theft.
- Ensure accurate unemployment and workers' compensation contributions.
- Protect workers from exploitative practices that erode labor rights and financial security.

### **Ensuring Accountability in Apprenticeship Programs**

Maryland's apprenticeship programs are among the most effective workforce development tools available. However, ensuring program integrity requires systematic oversight. By mandating the creation of an apprenticeship database, the state will:

- Provide transparency regarding program outcomes and certification rates.
- Enable stakeholders to assess apprenticeship quality and effectiveness.
- Facilitate strategic workforce planning by ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled labor.

### Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Economic Benefits

The establishment of these databases is a cost-effective solution that will yield significant long-term savings. Increased compliance with prevailing wage laws will reduce lost tax revenue due to misclassification, ensuring that public funds are spent effectively. Furthermore, improved apprenticeship tracking will enhance workforce development initiatives, helping Maryland maintain a competitive, highly skilled labor force.

### Conclusion

The Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act represents a strategic investment in economic integrity, labor rights, and fiscal responsibility. Drawing from proven successes in New York and Nevada, this legislation offers a well-documented pathway to greater transparency and accountability in Maryland's workforce. I urge the committee to pass this bill and ensure that Maryland continues to lead in responsible labor practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Roger Manno, Esq.

Manno & Associates LLC

# Yonis Bonilla\_Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association Uploaded by: Roger Manno

# TESTIMONY OF YONIS BONILLA ORGANIZER, MID ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND PREVAILING WAGE TRANSPARENCY ACT (SB3 / HB850) FAVORABLE

Dear Chairs Pene-Melnyk and Beidle, and Members of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Transparency Act. As an Organizer with the Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, I spend my days visiting construction sites, talking with workers about their rights, union representation, and industry standards. These conversations often reveal troubling realities—workers who are not being paid what they are owed, who have been misclassified by their employers, or who are facing other labor violations. When workers tell me they aren't receiving their proper wages under Maryland's prevailing wage laws, I help them navigate the process of filing complaints with the Maryland Department of Labor, the Maryland and D.C. Attorneys General, and the U.S. Department of Labor. In cases of misclassification, licensing violations, or overtime abuse, I connect them with legal counsel to pursue their rights.

Wage theft and worker misclassification are not abstract problems—they are realities I encounter every day. Contractors who misclassify workers as independent contractors do so to avoid paying taxes, workers' compensation, and overtime, shifting the burden onto workers and law-abiding businesses. Without proper oversight, these practices persist, undercutting honest contractors and denying workers the wages and protections they are due. Workers frequently report that they are not receiving the required prevailing wage, are being paid under the table, or are forced to work overtime without proper compensation. Without a transparent payroll records database, these violations remain hidden, and enforcement is inconsistent at best.

The creation of a certified apprenticeship and prevailing wage database is essential. Similar measures in New York have resulted in a 21% increase in recovered lost wages and a significant reduction in worker misclassification violations. Nevada's apprenticeship tracking system has led to a 12% increase in program completion rates and better compliance from apprenticeship sponsors. Maryland stands to benefit in the same way—ensuring fair competition, workforce accountability, and economic integrity.

I know firsthand how critical this legislation is. I see the consequences of weak enforcement every time I step onto a job site and hear a worker's story. These databases will provide the necessary transparency to help workers claim their wages, empower agencies to enforce labor laws, and ensure that state resources are directed toward responsible employers. I urge the committee to support this bill and take an important step toward protecting Maryland's workers and strengthening its economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Yonis Bonilla Organizer, Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

# HB850\_LOS with Amendments\_Workgroup on the Creatio Uploaded by: Kevin O'Keeffe



March 25, 2025

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake

Re: Support House Bill (HB) 850 with Amendments - Workgroup on the Creation of a

Data Dashboard for Public Contracts and Apprentices-Establishment

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents approximately 200 electrical contractors who employ approximately 15,000 workers in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, IEC Chesapeake has approximately 1,000 registered apprentices in the electrical trade including low voltage apprentices.

IEC Chesapeake and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) both have extensive apprenticeship programs which train Maryland residents in the skilled construction trades. House Bill 850 in its current form does include representatives from IEC Chesapeake or ABC in the proposed workgroup. Merit shop contractors from IEC Chesapeake and ABC should be included in the workgroup since they play an integral role in training the next generation of skilled construction workers through their apprenticeship programs. We also support adding a representative from the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) to the workgroup.

We suggest the following amendment to House Bill 850:

### **Proposed Amendment**

On Page 2, after Line 23, insert the following:

- (iv) One representative of Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake;
- (v) One representative of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC); and
- (vi) One representative of Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA)

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Shmelzer, Executive Director of IEC Chesapeake, at 301-646-0197 or at <a href="mailto:sshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com">sshmelzer@iec-chesapeake.com</a> or Kevin O'Keeffe at 410-382-7844 or at <a href="mailto:kevin@kokeeffelaw.com">kevin@kokeeffelaw.com</a>.

### About Us

Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake represents members throughout Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Our headquarters are located in Laurel, Maryland. IEC Chesapeake has an extensive apprenticeship program for training electricians. In addition, IEC Chesapeake promotes green economic growth by providing education and working with contractor members, industry partners, government policy makers and inspectors to increase the use of renewable energy.

# **hb850test - Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Da**Uploaded by: Marcus Jackson



The Voice of Merit Construction

March 25, 2025

Mike Henderson

President

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Director of Government Affairs Metro Washington Chapter mjackson@abcmetrowashington.org

Additional representation by: Harris Jones & Malone, LLC

6901 Muirkirk Meadows Drive Suite F Beltsville, MD 20705 (T) (301) 595-9711 (F) (301) 595-9718 TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

RE: H.B. 850 – WORKGROUP ON THE CREATION OF A DATA

DASHBOARD FOR PUBLIC WORK CONTRACTS AND

APPRENTICES - ESTABLISHMENT

POSITION: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT** 

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland (ABC), respectfully request an amendment to H.B. 850. While we fully support the intent of this bill to create a publicly accessible data dashboard for public work contracts and apprentices, we believe that the current composition of the workgroup could be significantly improved by including representation from non-union organizations.

H.B. 850, as written, specifies that the workgroup shall include representatives from the Baltimore-DC Building Trades Council, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, and Steamfitters Union Local 602. While these organizations offer valuable perspectives, the bill currently excludes non-union organizations that also contribute significantly to public work contracts and apprenticeship programs within the state.

We believe that the workgroup's recommendations will be more comprehensive and balanced if it includes representatives from organizations that operate outside of the traditional union framework. Both the Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland and the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake have unique insights into apprenticeship programs, workforce development, and the challenges faced by contractors in the public sector. In addition, we support the inclusion of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) in the workgroup. Their inclusion would ensure that the data dashboard accurately reflects the diverse landscape of public work contracts in Maryland.

With that said, we propose the following amendment to Section (b) of H.B. 850:

### On Page 2, after line 23, insert:

- ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATED BUIDERS AND (iv) CONTRACTORS OF MARYLAND (ABC);
- ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL (v) CONTRACTORS (IEC) CHESAPEAKE;
- ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MINORITY (vi) CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (MMCA)

This amendment would ensure that the workgroup benefits from a wider range of expertise and perspectives, leading to a more robust and effective data dashboard.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable with amendment report on H.B. 850.

Marcus Jackson, Director of Government Affairs



# JPR\_HB853 Testimony 03.21.25 pdf.pdf Uploaded by: Shabree McDonald

### TESTIMONY ON HB 853 MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT

### Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee March 25, 2025

### **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Submitted by: Shabree N McDonald

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I, Shabree McDonald am testifying in support of HB 853, the Maryland Second Look Act. I am submitting this testimony as my husband Diontre Lamont Stanton is my incarcerated family member.

Passage of the Maryland Second Look Act would create a meaningful opportunity for sentence modification for incarcerated people after having served 20 years of their sentence. I firmly believe that after having served decades of incarceration, all individuals should have the ability to demonstrate their growth and rehabilitation.

I am grateful for the opportunity this bill creates for those eligible for a second look. However, to achieve real change, more must be done. Maryland leads the nation in sentencing young Black men to the longest prison terms, including Life Without Parole (LWOP), at a rate 25% higher than the next nearest state, Mississippi. This disproportionate sentencing reflects systemic issues that must be addressed through legislative action.

I urge you to vote **favorably with amendments**. As currently written, the bill excludes individuals serving life without parole and those over 24 at the time of their offense. This exclusion denies a second chance to people who have demonstrated growth and rehabilitation. When a loved one goes to prison, the impact extends beyond the incarcerated individual—entire families suffer. True justice must include an opportunity for redemption, regardless of the severity of the original sentence.

The Juvenile Restoration Act, which HB 853 builds upon, banned Life Without Parole (LWOP) for minors sentenced as adults and gave individuals convicted as adults for crimes committed under 18 the chance to request a sentence reduction after serving 20 years, including those originally sentenced to LWOP as minors. Excluding LWOP from the Second Look process while allowing it under the JRA just doesn't make sense. Research consistently shows that brain development continues into the mid-to-late 20s, with the prefrontal cortex, the part responsible for decision-making, among the last to fully mature. Emerging adults still share many of the same risk factors as youth, such as increased impulsivity, greater risk-taking, poor decision-making, and difficulty with long-term thinking<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Martha Lally & Suzanne Valentine-French <u>Lifespan Development: A Psychological Perspective</u> (2025)

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• Whether a life without parole sentence is imposed depends significantly on the jurisdiction and who was in office at the time, leading to jurisdictional disparities in Maryland.

- Studies show very low recidivism rates for individuals released from decades-long sentences, including for violent crime. This has been seen with the Ungers, 200 Marylanders serving life sentences, who were released after the landmark case Maryland v Unger, who have a less than 4% recidivism rate<sup>2</sup>.
- The Act would require the judge to consider the victim's input, should the victim or the victim's representative choose to offer a statement. Victims, too, prefer, by 2 to 1, a criminal legal system that focuses more on rehabilitating people who commit crimes than punishing them.<sup>3</sup> —by a margin of 2 to 1.

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For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to vote **favorably with amendments** on the **Maryland Second Look Act, HB 853**. Expanding eligibility to include individuals sentenced to LWOP and those over 24 at the time of their offense is necessary to ensure fairness, equity, and a justice system that values rehabilitation and second chances.

Thank you.

<sup>2</sup> Justice Policy Institute <u>Fact Sheet: The Ungers</u> (2018)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Alliance for Safety and Justice: <u>Crime Survivors Speak 2022</u>: <u>National Survey Of Victims' Views On Safety And Justice</u> (2022)

# **AUC of MD\_HB 850\_UNFAV\_FIN.docx.pdf**Uploaded by: Andrew Griffin

Position: UNF



### BOARD MEMBERS

Lavern Dettman President

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Ian Stambaugh

ASSOCIATE ADVISORS

Jon Kibler

Edward Russell

March 25, 2025

Legislative Position: Unfavorable House Bill 850 Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Data Dashboard Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the committee:

Established in 1950, the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland, Inc. (AUC) is dedicated to advancing the utility contracting industry across the state. Our mission is to foster strong relationships between utility contractors and their clients, uphold the highest professional standards within the industry, and elevate the reputation of utility professionals within the business community. We actively advocate for public policies that address industry challenges and contribute to improving Maryland's overall business environment.

As amended, HB 850 creates a workgroup to study the feasibility of creating a data dashboard to make certain information about public works contracts available for public view. While AUC maintains significant reservations about the development of a data dashboard, reservations which were highlighted in our letter to the House Health and Government Operations Committee, we feel strongly that should this legislation creating the workgroup pass its membership should include representatives from a statewide contractors organization. As currently drafted, the membership is composed only of representatives of labor organizations. To fully understand the impact the creation of such a data dash board would have on merit based contractors, representatives from those groups should be included.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 850 as currently drafted. However, we strongly believe the workgroup should include a representative of a statewide building/contracting organization if the bill were to move forward.

Sincerely,

The Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland (AUC)

# Senate Crossover\_HB0850\_MD Labor\_Letter of Informa Uploaded by: Andrew Fulginiti

Position: INFO



### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 850

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee Members

**FROM:** Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

BILL: Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and

Apprentices - Establishment

### **MDL POSITION:** <u>INFORMATIONAL</u>

The Department of Labor appreciates and shares the mission of increasing public access to data reported by contractors on publicly-financed projects, including data regarding apprentices, contractors, and wages. We expect that greater visibility into these activities would promote accountability, create efficiencies, and increase compliance with the law.

As envisioned by HB 850, the Workgroup would collaborate to evaluate and recommend options for a public-facing "data dashboard" to include information on publicly-funded projects in Maryland, including information about the project, the contractors/subcontractors, any Registered Apprentice workers, and wages paid.

To the extent that the data identified in the bill is collected or maintained at all, it is housed within different units in different divisions. For example, the Division of Labor and Industry (DLI) receives payroll records from contractors on public works projects; however, the application that accepts those records has very limited public-facing capabilities – and very limited functionality overall. And DLI does not keep records related to Registered Apprenticeship: that data is kept by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL). There is currently no integration of DLI's and DWDAL's databases.

Greater integration, and greater public accessibility, of these records would result in key efficiencies. The system would reduce the time DLI spends manually responding to requests for payroll records and the time that DWDAL spends verifying Registered Apprenticeships on prevailing wage contracts, allowing both DLI and DWDAL staff to focus on other work.

Additionally, a public dashboard could lead to more oversight of public works projects, resulting in more prompt identification of issues such as worker misclassification, contributions to the unemployment insurance fund, etc. Furthermore, other agencies could utilize the dashboard for enforcement of taxation and workers compensation claims, potentially saving the State money while also increasing revenue.



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE 45 Calvert Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Department welcomes the opportunity to engage with other stakeholders and experts to develop concrete and cost-effective options to achieve the aim of greater public transparency and accountability.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee consider this information on HB 850.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov.