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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill - 782 - State Procurement - Payment of Employee Health Care Expenses -
Revisions
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 27^h, 2020
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, and distinguished members of the committee, It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 782 - State Procurement - Payment of Employee Health Care Expenses - Revisions**. Last year, Union, Merit Shop and Minority contractors came together to support and help pass this legislation. I am very thankful for the committee's consideration of this important piece of legislation.

Senate Bill 782 seeks clean-up language to the 2019 bill we needed to address some issues that arose at the time of the Board of Public Works implementation. The original legislation established procedures to require a responsible bidder or contractor on a State-funded project to either pay for health care expenses based on 5% of aggregate social security wages paid to an employee, or to pay 50% or more of the required premium necessary to obtain coverage by a credible health insurance plan.

The most important amendments ensure that covered contractors added after the procurement of the bill will be required to provide health care at the levels prescribed in the legislation. Additionally, the Attorney General has indicated a disparity study is required to provide a carve out to minority business enterprises firms. We will need to add language to provide for this study to ensure the bill does not undermine the W/MBE program.

I will sit with each of these parties and submit the clean-up amendments to ensure the spirit of this law is reflected in the language of the bill.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 782. Thank you for your kind consideration.