



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 64 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Handwashing
Facilities on Construction Sites
House Economic Matters Committee
January 28, 2021**

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 64 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health – Handwashing Facilities on Construction Sites. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how essential proper hand washing is to limiting the spread of the virus. While most work places have clean running water available for workers to wash their hands, that is not the case for construction sites in Maryland.

HB 64 requires that employers provide hand washing stations on construction sites, with running water, adequate for the number of workers present, and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

We would ask the sponsor if she would add a friendly amendment to the bill, to make it more robust and safer for workers:

“Page 2 Section (C) (II) Add after Workers: Hand soap or similar cleansing agents shall be provided, including hand towels or air dryers. Hand washing stations shall be located as to be protected from freezing.”

For the safety and welfare of Maryland’s construction workers and to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge a favorable report on HB 64.