



The Secure MD Wage Act, HB 685
Official Testimony
Position: **FAVORABLE**

To Chair Davis and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Ricarra Jones and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. 1199 is the largest healthcare workers union in the country, representing 10,000 members in Maryland's hospitals and Long-Term Care facilities. Our union is in full support of the Secure Maryland Wage Act.

This legislation will provide essential workers in Maryland's transit hubs a much-needed raise. They needed a raise before the COVID19 pandemic, and they need it even more now. Every day, I hear that essential workers are heroes. And that is the truth. Unfortunately, their pay doesn't reflect the sacrifices they are making by going to work every day during the COVID19 crisis. The Secure Maryland Wage Act will rectify this injustice by raising their base wages.

This bill is urgent because it's a public health issue. It will allow workers to receive crucial funding for their healthcare costs. We are in the midst of a serious pandemic, and now is NOT the time for people to avoid seeking the much-needed healthcare they need. Not only does this benefit the workers themselves, it protects the travelers thereby benefiting public health as a whole. We respectfully request the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on the Secure Maryland Wage Act. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones
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