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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 1002 – Unemployment Insurance - Revisions and Required Study
Economic Matters
February 23, 2020
Support

Sean Santmyre, Department of Labor AFSCME Local 3641 President, submits the following in support of HB 1002:

Good afternoon, and on behalf of the workers who make DOL happen everyday, I want to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today in support of HB 1002.

While our members have worked hard and performed to high standards, continued training and support is needed on a system that has been riddled with glitches and problems.

We are supportive of ensuring the adequate amount of staff this bill will bring. But, we do not believe additional staff should be out-of-state contracted out workers: we want to ensure that they are hired as state employees for positions that are on the frontlines. At last look DOL had one supervisor for every four workers. We see no need for any monies to be used for positions that will be placed in non-bargaining units.

One additional point we need to make clear is that my colleagues' work on cases can be complex. While I don't believe it is the sponsor's intent, I would point out that direct lines to a worker's desk that handles claims processing could lead to a large amount of time answering questions on status and not enough time spent on actually processing claims. We would want to ensure that public inquiries are routed in such a way as to ensure top efficiency of providing status information and claims resolution.

We ask a favorable reporting of HB 1102.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
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