



Founded 1889

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HB 64 – Labor and Employment – Occupational Safety and Health- Handwashing Facilities on Construction Sites

Date: January 28, 2021

Chair: Dereck Davis- Members of the Economic Matters Committee

Chairman Davis and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this very important bill. My name is Gerald Jackson and I am the Assistant Business Manager of The Plumbers and Steamfitters UA Local 486 and the Secretary- Treasurer of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO and I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

For the first 31 years of my career I worked as a Steamfitter on construction sites. During that time construction workers never complained about the lack of sanitary conditions, because we were conditioned to accept the unsanitary, filthy conditions that we were subjected to. Construction sites are a veritable “Petrie Dish” of bacteria and infections especially as it relates to the use of “Spot-a-Pots” and the lack of running water for hand washing or running water lavatories.

Now we are faced with a new threat, COVID19. This deadly virus has claimed the lives of more than 400,000 Americans. The CDC has recommended guidelines which encourages us to “WASH OUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN IN A PUBLIC PLACE, OR BLOWING YOUR NOSE, COUGHING, SNEEZING OR USING THE RESTROOM.

This bill can be the first of many precautionary measures that should be implemented to protect Maryland workers and their families from contracting and spreading this deadly virus.

I support HB 64 and ask that you **SUPPORT HB 64** with a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted: Gerald Jackson: UA Local 486 and Md. State & D.C. AFL-CIO