



**HB 1012  
SUPPORT**

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**HB 1012 SUPPORT**

**Thurgood Marshall BWI Workers' Right to Reinstatement Act.**

House of Delegates Committee on Economic Matters  
Friday, March 5, 2021 at 1:30pm

Good Afternoon Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and members of the House Economic Matters Committee.

I am Reverend Brian Murray, Senior Pastor of the New Covenant Community United Church of Christ in Baltimore and also a member of the Board of Directors of BRIDGE Maryland, Inc. which is a non-profit coalition of over (30) Maryland Churches.

BRIDGE Maryland uses intentional relationship building, organizing and intensive leadership development to strengthen congregations and faith leaders to demonstrate and advance justice in the world.

We see our state as challenged by a history of inequity and racism but engaged in community organizing for a more just tomorrow. We continually speak out against injustice and for mercy in our city, counties, and state.

The issue before us today, the Thurgood Marshall BWI Workers' Right to Reinstatement Act, presents us with just such an opportunity to advance justice. This is why I am here to speak in favor of HB 1012.

I know this work. As a young man I worked for an airline catering company called “Air La Carte” at Kennedy Airport. It is hard physical work and most workers are barely getting by under normal circumstances.

The workers that we are talking about are service workers, many earn low wages. The majority of the workforce is Black.

The COVID19 Pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color in terms of the spread of the virus but also in terms of the economic impact it has had. Some 80% of the Marshall BWI workers who work for private companies—this is excluding the airlines—have been laid off for almost a year.

The economic pressures that have been put on these workers and their families is tremendous. We all know what that is like and the toll it can take.

This Pandemic has been challenging for all of us. It has reminded us that we are all vulnerable. It has reminded us that with a blink of an eye our entire world crumble. It has reminded us that as children of god we must look out for one another.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (**Lev. 19:18**)

Love your neighbor as yourself. Think about that.

HB 1012 presents no increased cost to the State or to employers. It does however present an opportunity to treat workers as we would all like to be treated.

Workers need some relief and some hope. Bill HB 1012 would require private sector employers at the airport (excluding the airlines) to call their employees who were laid off due to the Pandemic, back to work as business returns. This is only fair to the employees who have been laid off through no fault of their own.

Please advance HB 1021 with a favorable report from your committee.