

Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore

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Local 40-543
American Federation of Musicians
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Michael Decker
President

Mary C. Plaine
Secretary-Treasurer

February 2, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 581 Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act February 5, 2021

TO: Hon. Dereck Davis, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Mary C. Plaine, Secretary-Treasurer, The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore, Local 40-543

The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore supports HB 581 and asks that the House Economic Matters Committee votes to support this bill and send it on to the full chamber for passage.

It is unfathomable that Maryland Occupational Safety and Health has not already put in place standards and procedures to protect the health and safety of the state's essential workers during this pandemic. Employers must be required to provide personal protective equipment at no cost to their employees and to institute reasonable health and safety protocols regarding regular testing, vaccinations, and working environments that minimize the spread of disease. In addition, employees must have the right to refuse dangerous work without fear of retaliation. Employees should not be left to depend on the potential goodwill of their employers. There must be state-mandated protections for our essential workers.

Local 40-543 urges members of the House Economic Matters Committee to vote FAVORABLY on House Bill 581.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary C. Plaine".

Mary C. Plaine
Secretary-Treasurer

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