



**HB 1012 SUPPORT**  
**Stephen Bethea**  
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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

Dear Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Stephen Bethea. Everyone calls me Step. I have worked preparing food and beverages for passengers who fly out of Thurgood Marshall BWI Airport for over 30 years. I work for LSG Sky Chefs. I was born and raised in Baltimore. I still live in Baltimore where my wife and I are blessed with our family and three grandchildren.

I've never seen anything the like the past year. In March of 2020 me and all of my co-workers were laid off. The longest I had ever gone not working was 2 weeks. Same for my co-workers many of who have also been at Sky Chefs for decades. Now here we were going months without work because the airlines stopped flying. There was no more work. For months only 4 out of 80 employees got any work hours at all at LSG Sky Chefs.

Before COVID19 we were about 80 workers. 50% African American and 50% immigrants from the Philippines and Latin America. The wages are not high. People were barely getting by even before the Pandemic. When we lost our pay checks completely it got really hard.

People are at the brink of losing everything because they are so far behind on their bills. Lots of people are relying on food banks to feed their families.

I thank God that my kids are grown and out of the house. I'm surviving because I had a second job, and my wife who also worked at Sky Chefs had a second job. It's just the two of us in the house.

This Fall Sky Chefs did bring some of us back. We are fortunate that we have a Union contract that requires the Company to bring us back to work based on seniority. But over half of my co-workers are still laid off and worried that if this keeps going on they will not have recall rights.

All of the service jobs at the Airport depend on the flights. If there are no flights, there are no passengers and no work. Travel is still down by 60% at Marshall BWI.

The restaurants inside of the Airport are closed or at reduced service, same for the bars, coffee shops and stores. Hundreds of people have been laid off.

HB 1012 will give airport workers some security. They would be able to tell their landlords and creditors that they will have a job when the Pandemic gets under control. It will give them some ability to get back on their feet when business comes back at the Airport.

All of us who work at the airport have to get a badge and go through security clearance. It is going to be important to get people back to work to get our economy back on its feet.

We have been laid off through no fault of our own and should have to right to return.

Please give a favorable report on HB 1012.