



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **OPPOSITION to House Bill 909**
Maryland Healthy Working Families Act- Applicability

House Economic Matters Committee

March 2, 2021

1:00 PM

Presented to: Dereck E. Davis, Chairman

By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Unfavorable Report to HB 909.**

We are proud to have been part of the Earned Sick Leave campaign from the outset and worked with many of you to finally make the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act law. At long last, hundreds of thousands of working Marylanders, who would either go to work sick or lose pay when they or a family member was sick, would have the ability to earn a few sick days per year.

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We unite workers in health care, public service, including public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. We represent over 50,000 workers in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region. Many members have been active in passing ***Earned Sick Leave*** laws across the country because, if not for the passage of these laws, many of us would not enjoy the security of having some sick leave on the books.

HB 909 at first appears to be a very narrowly crafted bill that would only impact a very few people, mostly teachers, who fill in when others are out and is mostly a technical issue involving needing to track leave.

This bill uses a loaded term. The words, "as-needed" could include long-term substitutes or other employees who could work the number of hours covered by the law. Those workers currently earn sick leave and use it "as needed", because they too get sick or who have family members who get sick.

Why would this committee want to take away these workers right to earn that leave? Is it because it's too difficult to track? Given how easily leave is tracked by payroll departments or payroll companies, that hardly seems to be the case. It appears that these school systems just want to save money, which is admirable, except when it comes at the expense of workers who have earned it.

We request you give an Unfavorable Report to HB 909. Thank you.