

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your time. My name is Suzanne Doogan. I am an educator from District 43. My position on HB581 is favorable, with amendments. It is important that employees in youth services and education, and daycare providers, such as myself, are classified as essential workers so that we can also be protected. As a former daycare provider, I have firsthand experience being required to work during the COVID pandemic without hazard pay and certain protections.

Please see the below amendments from Prince George's County Young Democrats, which I endorse wholly.

Best,

Suzanne Doogan

- **Amendments for Consideration**

- This legislation will also designate employees in youth services & education, such as employees of local school districts, daycare providers, tutoring services/companies, youth service companies, private schools & universities, and the Maryland State Department of Education, as essential workers.
- This legislation will set the fines applied to businesses that violate health protocols at no less than 120% of the value of employees' wages and benefits.
- This legislation will advance the implementation of the \$15 minimum wage for businesses with more than 50 essential workers to the time of this bill's passage, and retroactive to the declaration of the State of Emergency, including for workers who are no longer with their former employer. This retroactive pay will not inhibit the ability of workers to qualify for state benefits.
- This legislation will require that the rights and privileges extended to essential workers under this legislation will be included in hiring documentation that must be signed by both the hiring employer and said essential worker; in the worker training; and available on site in English and any other predominant language in the workplace with translation services available upon request.
- 80% of the fine revenues generated by this legislation will be earmarked for the Maryland Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund.

