



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 85 – Baltimore County Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability –
Detention and Correctional Officers
House Economic Matters Committee
February 2, 2021**

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 85 – Baltimore County Workers’ Compensation – Permanent Partial Disability – Detention and Correctional Officers. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Detention and Correctional Officers (CO) face workplace safety issues that most of us will never understand, let alone ever must face in our daily lives. Workplace violence is a very real threat to them, and it one of the most dangerous jobs in local government.

HB 85 adds Baltimore County Detention and Correctional Officers to the list of local government workers already covered for permanent partial disability. Prince George’s, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel COs are already covered, and in Baltimore County so are the deputy sheriffs. Adding the COs in Baltimore County would provide them with the same peace of mind that is enjoyed by those in covered counties, knowing they will have some level of recompense in the case of an injury on the job.

We cannot truly fathom the work that these COs do for the public, day in and day out. However, we can listen to their requests, and honor their service, by passing HB 85. We can provide these essential workers with a level of security that already exists in other jurisdictions in the State.

We urge a favorable vote on HB 85.