



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 20 – Maryland Stadium Authority – Applicability of Prevailing Wage House Economic Matters Committee February 4, 2021

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman Davis and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 20 – Maryland Stadium Authority – Applicability of Prevailing Wage. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Of the 26 States that have prevailing wage laws, Maryland has the highest threshold for a public work project to qualify for prevailing wage for its workers¹. Even some “right-to-work” States have a lower threshold for prevailing wages to kick in, with Texas having no threshold, at all. This is not in line with our values in Maryland. We believe that public projects – paid for with tax-payers’ dollars – should value the labor of the men and women doing the work that produce these projects on time and on budget.

HB 20 removes the existing exemption in State procurement law that the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) has pertaining to prevailing wage. Currently, the MSA voluntarily complies with the requirements of the prevailing wage law, so this bill should be non-controversial as it codifies into law the existing practices of the MSA. However, “voluntary” adherence produces the potential to revert to paying substandard wages in the future, making it incumbent to ensure that MSA continues to conform with the requirements of the prevailing wage law.

This law is good for workers, their families, and our communities, and it brings no additional cost to the taxpayers.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB 20.

¹ U.S. Department of Labor - www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/state/prevailing-wages