

HB 1012 SUPPORT
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Thurgood Marshall BWI Workers' Right to Reinstatement Act.

House of Delegates Committee on Economic Matters

Friday, March 5, 2021 at 1:30pm

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

My name is Charlene Fells and I am a member of Unite Here Local 7. I am also in support of HB 1012. I believe that it is only fair that workers at BWI Marshall Airport have recall rights when businesses reopen as they were laid off due to the Pandemic.

I live in Baltimore City and am active in my Union. The COVID-19 Pandemic has been hard on so many individuals and businesses. This is a time we really need our elected officials to establish programs to help low wage workers and our economy. I am very concerned about the hundreds of workers at Marshall BWI airport who have been laid off from their jobs through no fault of their own.

Businesses that operate at the airport have gotten Pandemic relief in the form of rent reductions, extended leases and access to grants and subsidies from the government. Workers also need some relief and some hope. Bill HB 1012 would require private sector employers at the airport (excluding the airlines) to call their employees who were laid off due to the Pandemic, back to work as business returns. This is 1) only fair to the employees who have been laid off through no fault of their own; and 2) good public policy.

We are all very hopeful that the vaccines will get COVID-19 under control and we will once again be able to travel, eat in restaurants and resume other activity. In order for our economy to get up and running again people need to be back to work and earning a paycheck. At the airport

we will also need to have experienced, trained workers who are already “badged” back at their stations to serve the public. This Bill, if enacted, will also allow laid off workers to tell their landlords or creditors that they will be recalled to work once restrictions are lifted. It gives them some security. Please do the right thing.

I urge a favorable report on HB 1012

Thank You in Advance for your support,
Charlene Fells