



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL
1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of House Bill 1321**
Labor and Employment – Reinstatement of Employment – Employees at
Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI-Thurgood
Marshall Workers’ Right to Reinstatement Act)
House Economic Matters Committee
March 5, 2021
1:30 PM

Presented to: Dereck E. Davis, Chairman
By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to HB 1012.**

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 have organized many thousands of airport workers across the country, and among our over 50,000 members in Maryland, DC and Virginia, many work at our region’s airports.

Over the past year due to the global pandemic, workers and businesses at airports have been among the hardest hit – and BWI Thurgood Marshall has been no exception. Hundreds of layoffs, many businesses shuttered, and if not for relief from the federal and state government, the crisis and human suffering would be much greater.

During the pandemic many of the workers who would be protected by HB 1012, have been either heroes or casualties. These are the front-line workers who kept things running while many of us had the comparative luxury of working safely from our homes of socially distanced offices.

As our situation moves towards a “new normal”, will the sacrifices of these workers be forgotten and a return to maximizing profits at the expense of workers be encouraged?

HB 1012 is a common-sense approach to ensuring that employers act within the bounds of common decency. HB 1012 would not be necessary if all employers behaved at most

probably would or would want to. HB 1012 sets a standard, that all employers should easily meet.

Unfortunately, at airports around the country, we've seen contractors using the pandemic as an excuse not to recall their workers, or some of their more experienced workers, in order to increase profits.

By passing HB 1012, the Maryland General Assembly can say that at BWI Thurgood Marshall we will treat workers with respect and decency, we will have labor standards and we won't forget those who made great sacrifice during the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020-21.

We urge a Favorable Report on HB 1012. Thank you.