



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 668 Good Job Opportunities for HS Graduate Act of 2021 March 9, 2021

To: Paul G. Pinsky, Chair and members of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee
From: Tom Clark IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I ask that you vote unfavorable on SB 668, as it is written. The title and intent of this bill is commendable, but what worries me is the fast and loose use of the word apprenticeships. The goal of this bill can be achieved without using the word or the model of apprenticeships.

I encourage all young people to look to the trades and apprenticeships for a career. I would warn these same young people to be wary of programs that are looking for cheap labor, as many of these impromptu apprenticeships do. If a young person is not being educated in a classroom, he or she is an intern, not an apprentice. If a program is not graduating people, they are exploiting them. I worry that SB 688 is looking for cheap labor, disguised by the word “apprenticeship”.

Here at Local 26 we have some 1800 applicants a year vying for 400 spots in the upcoming class. For those you do not make the cut, they are given a pathway to continue on in the trade, eventually leading to become a qualified and licensed Electrician. Our students are taught by trained instructors and must follow all of the academic and work requirements in order to graduate. This works well for the student, the union and the contractor. I worry that SB 668 is only a cost cutting measure and not the beginning of a 40 year career for the young people of Maryland.

I once again ask you to **oppose** SB 668. Consider writing a bill without hiding behind the word “apprenticeship”.

Sincerely, Tom Clark
IBEW 26

