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The Honorable Chairman Delores Kelley and
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

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JASON WEAVER

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Local 631
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EDMONSTON
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Local 610
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RE: SUPPORT SB-728

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) we urge your committee to **support SB-728**, "*Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health – Injury and Illness Prevention Program.*"

SB-728 would require employers with 10 or more employees, or whose rate of work-related injury and illness exceeds the average incidence rate of all industries in the State, to develop and implement a health and safety committee and an injury and illness prevention program.

When employers work with employees using best practices to find and fix hazards before workers get hurt, the results will help workers stay safe and businesses save money. Through a collaborate and proactive approach in identifying the hazards that are causing the most incidents annually, the Commissioner of Labor & Industry will be able to set standards to address these workplace hazards.

Dozens of states throughout the country have implemented such safety in the workplace programs. It is time for Maryland to set an example that their workers deserve safety in the workplace too.

We all strive for safety in the workplace and SB-728 will go a long way toward ensuring the workers covered by this legislation have a safe place in which to work.

We urge a favorable report on SB-728.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry".

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division