



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 165 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Applicability
Senate Finance Committee
January 21, 2021**

OPPOSE

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

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 165 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Applicability. My name is Donna Edwards, 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.

SB 165 is an attempt to weaken protections for workers and to dilute Earned Sick Leave for working Marylanders. Under current law, substitute teachers are eligible for Earned Sick Leave. SB 165 exempts them from receiving Earned Sick Leave, leaving more workers unprotected when they are sick or have a sick loved one that they need to care for.

In Maryland, we have roughly 8,700 substitute teachers currently employed. Many substitute teachers work full-time, and rely on their job for their primary source of income. Exacerbating this is the fact that the median wage for substitutes is \$32,360/year¹, according to the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistic information from 2018. Therefore, the people affected by SB 165 already earn a lower wage and would suffer a greater negative impact by having to choose between paying the bills and their health.

For the protection and health of Maryland workers, we urge an unfavorable report.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/may/oes253098.htm>