

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

## AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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## Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Health and Government Operations Committee On

HB 770 Baltimore City Community College – Procurement Authority

## Oppose

March 15, 2021

Madame Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **opposition** of House Bill 770.

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a 41-year member, and the Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. In addition, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I represent approximately 2,000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians.

The work we do is not easy; it requires high skills and has a fair amount of risk. We understand this, which is why we provide extensive training and fight for quality wages, pensions, and health care. We believe everyone doing this type of work is entitled to these wages, regardless of their affiliation with our organization. The State of Maryland has very clear rules regarding procurement on public work

projects. These laws are put in place to maintain those high standards, particularly the laws applying to prevailing wage.

Prevailing wage laws require contractors to employ registered apprentices and journeypersons that are compensated with fair wages and fringe benefits, including defined pensions and health insurance for themselves and their families. Prevailing wages on publicly funded projects provide an influx of money to local communities. They provide a means of employment that can keep younger residents from having to leave their homes to find work in D.C. or out of State. Tax payer dollars should be used to maintain the economic standard in the communities where publicly funded projects are being constructed.

HB 770 would exempt Baltimore City Community College from Maryland State prevailing wage laws. This is why I am asking you to give HB 770 an **unfavorable** report.

Sincerely,



Peter P. Demchuk

Business Manager

PPD:mgs

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