

Good afternoon Chair McIntosh and members of the House Appropriation Committee. My name is Nick Kyriecou and I have been a state employee for 43 years. I am currently employed as an Environmental Compliance Specialist 4 for the Maryland Dept of Environment. I am a member of MPEC Maryland Professional Employee Council Unit G. I am here on this call to request all the members of this House Appropriation Committee give a favorable report on HB 892. Please do the right thing. Renew the promise made to me and all other State Employees who started before 2011 by re-instituting the State Employees retirees prescription plan.

Members of this committee I am proud of my work as well as my co-worker, providing needed services for the families of lead poisoned children below the age of 6 years old. I provide in this age of Covid, in home services to the families of these children affected with lead in blood at levels from currently 5 to 9 and 10 mg/dl and above. To provide this services as well as some of my co-worker we required to be trained & accredited as lead risk assessor every two years. For all I do and other State Employees for the citizens of Maryland we are not fairly recognized with appropriate compensation in the form of a competitive pay & benefits.

Elimination of the state employees retiree prescription drug program would further grease the ~~rot~~ 3 year rotating door of state employee leaving for better paying jobs in the private sector.

Members of the committee passing HB 892 out of committee is a crucial step to restoring a promise made to me and all other State Employees many years ago. The enactment of HB 892 is important for me to decide after 43 years, when to retire.

The big question is how does the State of Maryland value its current employees? Enacting HB 892 shows people ^{currently} working for the State of Maryland that a promise made is a promise kept.

I again reach out to this committee to issue a favorable report to HB 892. Please stop that rotating door.