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Boilermakers  
United Association  
Plumbers & Gas Fitters  
Sprinkler Fitters  
Steam Fitters  
Roofers  
Cement Masons  
Teamsters  
Laborers  
Bricklayers  
Ironworkers  
Sheet Metal Workers  
Elevator Constructors  
Painters  
Operating Engineers  
Carpenters

## Maryland House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee

Chair: C.T. Wilson

Vice Chair: Brian M. Crosby

### House Bill 977 Prevailing Wage Rate – Public School Construction – Moratorium

Position: **Oppose**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council opposes House Bill 977. Prevailing wage is not a ceiling it is a floor, the minimum wage to be paid for each craft. It provides a standard income for a middle-class life. As our tax dollars are being spent the application of these standards are imperative to the protection of these living standards and the empowerment of Maryland's working families. These standards include paying the area prevailing wage standard for each trade, including the wages and fringe benefits per trade, and to be subject to all state reporting and compliance requirements. Participation in an apprenticeship program registered with the State of Maryland for each trade employed on the project. The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades spends approximately \$26,000,000.00 annually in apprenticeship scholarships. The largest post high school scholarship program in the State. MD has the highest median income in the U.S. at \$84,805.00 making it the wealthiest state in the country. Howard county is the wealthiest county in the wealthiest state with a median income of \$121,160.00. The Cato Institute shows MD with a \$4,600,000,000.00 billion surplus with a projected \$1,900,000,000.00 billion surplus each year for the next 5 years. The moratorium on school construction has nothing to do with the cost of construction and everything to do with contractors that don't want to pay fair wages and benefits.

We ask the committee for an unfavorable vote. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Guido - Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council

**Value on Display... Everyday.**

