



House Economic Matters Committee

To: Delegate CT Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

**OPPOSE HB 977 – Prevailing Wage Rate – Public School Construction –
Moratorium**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, our member Local, and our almost 10,000 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters members across the state I ask you to **OPPOSE HB 977**.

When tax dollars are spent, there is an expectation that they are being used to get the best value for the taxpayer. Best value does not just mean being the cheapest cost; it means the best return on investment. Prevailing Wage does just that. Prevailing Wage ensures that the "prevailing" or "Market" rate for a given construction craft is to be used for the taxpayer-funded project. This means public construction projects are not forcing the market rate for private construction down. In addition, it provides small and medium-sized businesses and a local and more diverse workforce to work on a local construction project because it sets a floor on wages and benefits. This wage floor means that larger contractors who bring their workers in from out of state must compete on a level playing field with these local contractors.

With billions of dollars about the appropriated for school construction across the state the last thing that should happen is the elimination of prevailing wage on school construction. Prevailing Wage ensures a level playing field among the contractors when bidding the projects and helps to ensure that local workers work on local projects. Prevailing Wage helps small and minority owned contractors compete for public projects and to grow their businesses.

For these reasons, I ask you to **OPPOSE HB 977**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
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