



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1000 Maryland Earn and Learn Act of 2022-Establishment March 8, 2022

TO: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, Brian Crosby, Vice Chair, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you vote favorably on **HB 1000**. This bill will establish a standard system of apprenticeships for the various trades. Apprenticeships are the backbone of our industry, supplying the workforce of the future. We ask that they all meet minimum requirements.

The idea that anyone one person, company or industry can call themselves an “apprenticeship” in order to pay lower wages is a problem. HB 1000 will make certain requirements are fulfilled to ensure that residents can earn while they learn and not be exploited by unscrupulous contractors. The minimum standards such as classroom hours, qualified instructors and on the job training will all be standardized to meet the ever-increasing need for skilled labor in Maryland. HB 1000 also establishes a “Board” to grant professional license to applicants. This Board will make uniform all license fees and all exams’ scores for every applicant.

The Maryland Earn and Learn Act will hopefully codify all standards expected from its applicants. I encourage the members of the Committee to vote **favorably on HB 1000**. Thank you

