



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 611 – Procurement – Prevailing Wage - Applicability House Economic Matters Committee February 15, 2022

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 611 – Procurement – Prevailing Wage - Applicability. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Maryland believes in the dignity of work. The General Assembly has reaffirmed our belief in this bedrock value by expanding Prevailing Wage Law over the past few years. We value the tremendous contribution to our State of those skilled workers who build our publicly funded projects by ensuring they are paid the Prevailing Wage for their covered craft. Additionally, if our tax dollars are to be spent on building schools and state buildings, it is imperative that we get the highest value for the taxes paid by Maryland workers, and that is done by paying for the highest skilled and best trained workforce through a Prevailing Wage.

HB 611 expands Prevailing Wage law to mechanical systems service contracts, which, in effect, expands it to the maintenance of our taxpayer funded buildings. This is important step toward promoting family-sustaining careers (as well as the increased Apprenticeship opportunities) and ensuring that we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money by investing it into highly skilled tradesmen and women to maintain the mechanical systems in our schools and state facilities.

From refrigeration to plumbing, from electrical to elevators, buildings need regular maintenance. We can support the workers who fix and maintain our state buildings and ensure that we have the highest quality work that our tax dollars can buy. We can, and should, do both.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB 611.