



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

HB 13 – Procurement – Discriminatory Hiring Practices - Debarment House Health and Government Operations Committee January 18, 2022

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 13 – Procurement – Discriminatory Hiring Practices - Debarment. 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.

HB 13 is an idea long past due. Since 1965, the Federal Government has prohibited federal contractors from engaging in discriminatory employment practices. With this bill we can provide real consequences for those who discriminate in the workplace by debarring them from any state contracts for five years. Any discrimination is unacceptable, but discrimination in the workplace is especially insidious, as it is one of the main drivers of pervasive economic inequities in our country. If we truly believe in Dr. Martin Luther King's dictate to judge each other by the quality of our character, and not the color of our skin, then we must draw hard lines against those who would discriminate against our brothers and sisters in the workplace.

No Marylander should face workplace discrimination, and employers who discriminate should be made to suffer harsh consequences for their actions.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB 13.