



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

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

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 764 - Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission - Collective Bargaining Agreement Implementation - Impasse Arbitration MC 10-23
House Appropriations Committee
March 7, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 764 - Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission - Collective Bargaining Agreement Implementation - Impasse Arbitration MC 10-23. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

HB 764 provides balance in the negotiations process, giving both parties every motivation to work toward a timely agreement. Arbitration is a common dispute resolution process in both private and public sector labor relations. It recognizes that both parties do not always agree and that negotiations can reach an impasse. When this happens, a neutral arbitrator is tasked with drafting a written award that lays out the terms of a settlement.

The process listed in the bill for the selection of neutral arbitrators is shared by many unions and employers in Maryland and across the country. Workers deserve balance and prompt decisions. This bill is a fair and balanced approach to providing effective and efficient negotiations for workers at Montgomery County's Housing Opportunities Commission.

We urge a favorable report for HB 764.