



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 112 - State Personnel - Whistleblower Law - Procedures and Remedies  
(First Amendment and Public Employee Protection Act)  
House Appropriations Committee  
January 31, 2023**

**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 of HB 112. 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 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 112 strengthens and expands the whistleblower provisions for Executive Branch employees to include threatened personnel actions and retaliatory actions that negatively impact workers. It also assigns the Office of Attorney General with investigating and enforcing alleged violations of the whistleblower law. HB 112 includes the ability for complainants to receive monetary damages and recoup reasonable legal costs.

These measures combined will strengthen state employee's ability to place the public interest above that of their supervisors or coworkers. Whistleblower protections are an important part of good governance. By including threatened personnel and retaliatory actions and not just reprisals that actually occur, HB 112 helps combat hostile office cultures that make reporting bad behavior impossible.

We encourage the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 112.