

**P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133**

# **The Randallstown NAACP Supports HB 528-State Personnel – Teleworking Programs, Policies, and Guidelines**

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**Immediate Release**

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**Randallstown, MD** -The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated underlying disparities in the health and economic wellbeing of people across the country. Segregated cities and neighborhoods have devastated many—disproportionately Black and Hispanic communities—under the weight of the pandemic and the ensuing recession, while others have been less impacted. Some families have seen multiple family members and friends become seriously ill or lose their jobs, while others have come away relatively unscathed (and in some cases, prospered). Millions of workers have risked their health and the health of their families by going to work in-person, while others have been able to work from home and don't regularly encounter those facing the pandemic's wrath. The bottom line: disparities persist between who can safely stay home and get paycheck and who cannot.

There remains a large disparity between the share of Black and Hispanic workers who are able to telework, compared with white and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers. Specifically, only one in six Hispanic workers (15.2%) and one in five Black workers (20.4%) are able to telework due to COVID, contrasted with one in four white workers (25.9%) and two in five AAPI workers (39.2%). In fact at the Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) who just started to allow their employees to telework one day a week. However, DPSCS Human Resources teleworks five days a week. The difference is that MPC is over 80% African Americans with lower grades and DPSCS, HR is over 60% white. This can not continue in the Great State of Maryland.

**The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote for HB 528 out of committee.**

Source: Authors' analysis of EPI Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.14 (2021), <https://microdata.epi.org> and the Current Population Survey COVID supplement.