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Budget and Tax Committee

To: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair; Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.

From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our 10,000+ United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitter members, and family members across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT SB 835**.

Schools are supposed to be safe places. Even when a child is having problems at home, the school should be a place where they can come each day to feel safe. Parents should have the same sense of security when sending their children to school in the morning. This is why ensuring air quality and HVAC systems in a school is so important. Requiring a license or certification to work on these HVAC and other air handling systems is critical to the safety of the children. Licenses and certifications are there to ensure public safety by providing the workers are issued to meet a certain skill level before they work on these systems.

My member so the United Association will always support licensing in our crafts. Our members proudly ass their licensing exam, whether plumbing or HVAC, as they finish their apprentice training. For this reason and the above reasons, I ask you to **SUPPORT SB 835.**

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher Political Director Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association