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**SB 198 - Elevator Safety - Privately Owned Single-Family Residential Elevators - Inspection and Registration Requirements
Senate Finance Committee
February 9, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 198. 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.

SB 198 applies existing elevator registration and inspection requirements to private single-family home elevators if they were installed after October 1, 2023. This requires private home elevator owners to register their elevators with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry and schedule initial inspections to ensure that it was properly installed. The bill does not require any re-inspections or followup registrations.

Home elevators can be dangerous when not properly installed or maintained. Their current exemption from initial inspections allows problems to grow over time. Without proper inspections by well-trained elevator mechanics, elevators can be deadly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced last year that it found 41 deaths linked to elevators from 2018 to 2021 and 19,000 injuries that resulted in emergency room visits, even stating "Residential elevators pose a deadly risk to children. It is long past time for all homeowners to address the hazard and ensure that children cannot get trapped between elevator doors, particularly in homes that are used as vacation rentals, by families who may not be familiar with elevators."

In 2022, the elevator manufacturer ThyssenKrupp Access agreed to recall 16,800 residential elevators after years of unsafe design allowed small children to be crushed between the doors. The Washington Post reported that a simple modification costing \$100 prevents the issue in the future, but the company avoided regulatory enforcement that could have saved lives. SB 198 is a practical step forward to improve safety by requiring initial inspections on private single-family home elevators.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 198.