



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 198 ELEVATOR SAFETY-PRIVATELY OWNED-RESIDENTIAL February 9, 2023

TO: Hon. Melony Griffith, Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you eagerly **support SB 198**, a bill that **will** save lives. Residential elevator systems need to be inspected and meet the registration requirements that is commonplace in commercial buildings. This is not a “red tape” issue, it is a “life safety” issue.

As an electrician, this does not and will not effect my work picture. I write this testimony as a concerned Maryland citizen that wants the best conditions for Marylanders. Too often these elevators in residential dwellings go unchecked for years, placing the residents in danger. You will also find residential elevators installed in numerous rental vacation homes in Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake or on waterfront property. In these circumstances, the elevator user is not too familiar with the proper and safe use the elevator, resulting in user error and dangerous situations. Recently, in North Carolina an uninspected, unregistered vacation home elevator malfunctioned and caused to door to be ajar. Sadly, a toddler fell through and down the shaft. Although the fall injured the child, he was killed when an unknowing family member used the elevator and the victim was crushed. Pardon the most extreme and horrific example, I just think this piece of legislation is that important to prevent such a sad story from ever happening again.

I ask the Committee to join me, the professionals in the Elevator industry and Safety Directors throughout Maryland and **support SB 198**. A piece of legislation well overdue and most importantly a “life safety” issue. Thank you

