

Testimony for Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
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**Senate Bill 355: Occupational Safety and Health - Public Buildings - Indoor Air Quality**

Hello, I am Dr. Kathleen McPhaul an Associate Research Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. I have over 30 years' experience taking care of workers with health complaints, teaching occupational health, and conducting research.

This bill reads like a home-owner's manual and includes all the things that the State should already be doing regarding building envelope and HVAC assessment, maintenance, and monitoring. It also requires transparency on these issues.

By passing this bill Maryland will be in alignment with the White House Clean Air Challenge. The White House knows that safe buildings are a critical component of pandemic preparedness, and our buildings were not ready to not serve our economy, our public or our workforce during COVID-19. Not even close.

Furthermore, we know there are dire human health effects including cognitive impairment, respiratory and cardiovascular disease and, of course, airborne infectious diseases.

I invite you to tap the expertise at the UMD Schools of Public Health and Engineering. Dr. Don Milton was invited to present at the White House Summit on Clear Indoor Air and Dr. Jelena Srebric of the UMD School of Engineering is an expert in Sustainability and the Built Environment. We are right in your backyard.

Finally, I will close by saying I built my own room air filter for my office and my classroom and I carry my own CO2 monitor, to assess ventilation wherever I go. This bill does not ask MOSH to inspect every building every year, but it requires the state to be a good "home owner" and take care of our buildings.

Clean Air Benefits Everyone:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/12/08/clean-indoor-air-benefits-everyone/>

Fact Sheet: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/12/08/fact-sheet-departments-and-agencies-commit-to-cleaner-indoor-air-across-the-nation/>

Readout of the White House Summit on Improving Indoor Air Quality:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/10/12/readout-of-the-white-house-summit-on-improving-indoor-air-quality/>

University of Maryland Public Health and Aerobiology Laboratory

<https://sph.umd.edu/research-impact/laboratories-projects-and-programs/public-health-aerobiology-laboratory-phab-lab>

Donald Milton, Professor

<https://sph.umd.edu/people/donald-milton>

Jelena Srebric, Professor

<https://enme.umd.edu/clark/faculty/597/Jelena-Srebric>