

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS – LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council -AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council -AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the Senate Finance Committee On

SB 104 Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2024

Support

March 4, 2024

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong **support** for **SB 104**. When workers who were gainfully employed lose their job through no fault of their own, it can have a devastating effect on them and their families. The current unemployment payments are equal to less than the Maryland State minimum wage, and these payments are not enough for recently unemployed workers to meet their basic needs.

An increase in unemployment payments would help families meet these needs, pay bills, and put food on the table. Studies have shown that providing sufficient financial resources to individuals in need can help them find new employment and boost the overall economy. Additionally, the UI fund needs a readjustment to remain solvent. It makes sense to pass a comprehensive legislative solution, which considers the needs of employers and MD Workers.

SB 104 is that comprehensive solution, which is why I urge you to vote **favorably**.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24