



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 599 - State Personnel - BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department - Collective  
Bargaining and Arbitration Process  
House Appropriations Committee  
March 4, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President  
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 599. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

HB 599 ensures a fair and effective collective bargaining and arbitration process for uniformed fire employees for the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department.

These workers put their lives on the line to respond to emergencies to protect travelers and airport personnel. Given the nature of their work, they deserve a fair and equitable process to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions.

This legislation recognizes the crucial work these fire employees do by investing in labor fairness and their well-being.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable vote on HB 599.