



Eastern Atlantic States

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Testimony of Mungu Sanchez of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
In Support of HB264 / SB218
House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee

Chairs Wilson and Beidle, and honorary Members of the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, I am honored to express our strong support for House Bill 264 / Senate Bill 218. This bill represents a crucial effort to address workplace fraud and protect the rights and livelihoods of Maryland's hardworking carpenters and construction workers. As a union dedicated to advocating for fair treatment, safe conditions, and just compensation for our members, we know how essential it is to hold bad actors accountable and ensure a level playing field in our industry.

Maryland's construction industry is built on the backs of skilled workers who dedicate their lives to their craft, contributing to the growth and prosperity of our communities. Unfortunately, too many employers choose to cut corners by engaging in workplace fraud, especially through the misclassification of employees as independent contractors. This practice robs workers of benefits, strips them of workplace protections, and erodes the dignity of their labor. It also hurts legitimate contractors who follow the rules by allowing unscrupulous operators to unfairly underbid them.

House Bill 264 / Senate Bill 218 takes decisive action to address this pervasive issue. By requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to notify licensing authorities when a licensee violates workplace fraud provisions, the bill ensures that violations are met with consequences. The suspension or revocation of licenses for repeat offenders is a critical measure to curb these practices and send a clear message that Maryland values fairness and integrity in the workplace. Importantly, the bill also includes a transparent and fair appeals process, ensuring that enforcement is balanced and just. From our perspective as union carpenters, HB264 / SB218 is more than just a policy change—it is a stand for the rights of workers and the future of our industry. Workplace fraud undermines everything we stand for: fair wages, safe conditions, and respect for skilled labor. When contractors engage in fraudulent practices, they cheat not only their workers but also the communities they serve. Tax revenue is lost, safety standards are compromised, and the foundation of trust in our industry is eroded. This legislation is also about protecting honest contractors who follow the rules and treat their workers with respect. These businesses invest in their employees and uphold the standards that make Maryland's construction industry strong. HB264 / SB218 helps ensure that these ethical contractors are not undercut by those who flout the law for profit.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters urges this Committee to give HB264 / SB218 a favorable report. By passing this bill, you are sending a message that Maryland supports its workers, values fairness, and is committed to fostering an industry built on integrity and respect. We commend Governor Moore and Secretary Wu for their leadership on this issue and thank the Committee for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information as needed.

Respectfully,

Mungu Sanchez