



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

*President*

Donna S. Edwards

*Secretary-Treasurer*

Gerald W. Jackson

## **HB 956 - Consumer Protection - Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation House Economic Matters Committee February 18, 2025**

### **SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS**

**Donna S. Edwards**

**President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 956 if amended to include representation for labor. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 956 establishes a workgroup on artificial intelligence (AI) implementation. While we appreciate the commitment to study the potential benefits and risks of using AI, this legislation fails to include voices from labor. Given that two of the main issue areas that the workgroup must monitor pertain to the regulation of AI used in decisions that impact the livelihood of individuals in the state and deployer and developer obligations to labor and employment, it is imperative to include representatives from labor on the workgroup.

To address this absence, we propose the following amendment:

**On page 2, under section 3.5-807 add,**

**“(6) THREE REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AFL-CIO”**

We strongly believe the quality of the conversation is significantly enhanced when we include the voices of those who will be directly impacted by the workgroup's recommendations.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report of HB 956 if amended.