

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS – LOCAL UNION No. 24

## AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council -AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council -AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council -AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council-AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. -AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



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## Written Testimony of Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24 Before the House Economic Matters Committee On HB 554 Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2025

### Support

February 24, 2025

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing in **support of HB 554**. When hardworking Marylanders lose their jobs through no fault of their own, the financial strain can be devastating for them and their families. Unfortunately, current unemployment benefits fall below the state's minimum wage, leaving many unable to cover even basic living expenses.

Increasing unemployment payments is not just about helping individuals stay afloat, it's about ensuring families can pay their bills, put food on the table, and remain stable while seeking new employment. History has shown that when workers receive additional support during crises, such as the extra payments provided during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Key Bridge collapse, they are better positioned to recover, and the economy benefits as a whole.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 554 and give it a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,  
Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent  
IBEW Local 24