



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 1017 - Public Works Contracts - Apprenticeship Requirements
(Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)
House Economic Matters Committee
February 27, 2025**

SUPPORT

**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 20 if amended. 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 1017 establishes a minimum threshold on public works construction projects, requiring that at least 20% of labor hours be completed by registered apprentices. This legislation invests in our state's workforce development, while reinforcing the importance of apprenticeship opportunities and participation.

Apprenticeships are an effective way for individuals to gain hands-on experience and technical education, ensuring they develop the necessary expertise needed for their careers while providing employers with a competent and capable workforce. Apprenticeship opportunities emphasize systematic instruction and experience, allowing new workers to develop their knowledge in all aspects of a skilled occupation and set them up to enter an industry that provides them with family-supporting wages, benefits, and adequate protections.

Apprenticeship utilization policies are not new. States such as Washington, Nevada, and Utah have implemented similar policies to mandate apprenticeship utilization, as they have recognized that apprentices play a crucial role in building out infrastructure through these projects.

As our state looks to commit itself to significantly expanding apprenticeships, HB 1017 takes necessary steps to ensure that our own public works projects support that growth.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 1017.