

Apprenticeship Testimony

Good Afternoon.

Thank you Senator Benson for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB0688, the Apprenticeship Utilization Act. My name is Rochelle Ramsey-Walker, and as an apprentice enrolled in the Commercial Painting Program at the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, I believe that this legislation holds the key to shaping a brighter future for apprentices like myself and the entire construction workforce in Maryland.

This legislation emphasizes diversity and inclusion within the construction industry, providing opportunities for individuals like myself who may have faced barriers in the past. It creates a more accessible pathway not just for women, but for minorities, and individuals from different backgrounds to enter and thrive in the construction trades.

Job security is of the utmost importance, especially now. This Act focuses on apprenticeship utilization not only securing our present opportunities but also ensuring a thriving workforce for years to come. By investing in apprenticeships, we contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of the construction industry in Maryland.

My experience as an apprentice has been marked not only by skill development but also personal growth. This Act reinforces the importance of our roles, encouraging a sense of commitment and professionalism that extends beyond our apprenticeship journey. It sets the stage for a fulfilling and promising career in the construction trades. As a college graduate, it was very difficult to find work to support my growing family. But through apprenticeship pathways, I've been able to sufficiently support my family.

I want to thank Delegate Wells for sponsoring SB0688 the Apprenticeship Utilization Act. As an apprentice, I support this legislation, believing that it will not only positively impact my journey but also contribute to the overall

success and vitality of the construction industry for women and all workers from all walks of life in our great state.

I urge you to support SB0688.

Thank you