

Testimony in Support of SB 0938

Fraud Prevention and Worker Protections - Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement

March 3, 2025

To: Honorable Chair Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hayes, and members of the Senate

Finance Committee

From: Kayla Mock, Political & Legislative Director

United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 400

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Matters Committee, I appreciate the chance to share my testimony on behalf of our over 10,000 members in Maryland, working in grocery, retail, food distribution, cannabis, and health care. Through collective bargaining, our members raise the workplace standards of wages, benefits, safety, and retirement for all workers. Union members are critical to the addressing inequality and uplifting the middle class.

We support SB 0938 and urge you to vote it favorably.

Wage theft is often thought of a construction or trades issue; however, we have witnessed wage theft and misclassification spread to low wage workers. That is why it is imperative to expand the Workplace Fraud Act to all industries, employers, general contractors, and subcontractors.

We are also supportive of creating the Worker Protection Unit within the Office of the Attorney General, allowing the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce the Maryland Wage and Hour Law, the Workplace Fraud Act, the Wage Payment and Collection Law, and the prevailing wage law.

We appreciate Maryland's commitment to protect it's most vulnerable citizens. And now, we believe those protections should be extended to protecting workers from workplace fraud and misclassification.

We urge a favorable report on SB 0938.