



## Eastern Atlantic States

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Testimony of Mungu Sanchez Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC)  
in Opposition to House Bill 321 / Senate Bill 303  
Before the Maryland General Assembly House Health and Government Operations Committee and Senate Finance  
Committee

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Chair Beidle, and Honorable Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), representing thousands of skilled union carpenters across Maryland, I write today in strong opposition to House Bill 321 and Senate Bill 303. These bills threaten the affordability and stability of healthcare benefits that our members and their families rely on to stay healthy and productive.

Union carpenters and their families depend on the employer-sponsored healthcare plans that we have worked tirelessly to secure through collective bargaining agreements. These plans provide comprehensive coverage that ensures access to quality care, and any disruption to these benefits could have dire consequences for our workforce. HB 321 and SB 303 introduce provisions that could increase healthcare costs, diminish coverage options, and create instability within our industry.

The proposed changes in these bills would lead to higher out-of-pocket expenses, including increased premiums, deductibles, and prescription drug costs. Many of our members, who are already facing rising costs of living, cannot afford these additional financial burdens. Furthermore, these bills could weaken federal protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), jeopardizing the stability of our healthcare plans and placing additional pressures on employers.

Our members are the backbone of Maryland's infrastructure and economic development. They dedicate their skills to building and maintaining critical projects across the state, and they deserve the security of stable, employer-sponsored healthcare—not policies that undermine their hard-earned benefits.

We strongly urge the committees to reject HB 321 and SB 303 and instead focus on solutions that protect and enhance the employer-sponsored healthcare system that has been a pillar of support for union workers and their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mungu Sanchez  
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC)