



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 850 - Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Data Dashboard  
(Maryland Public Works and Apprenticeship Transparency Act)  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 4, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 850. 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 850 strengthens transparency and compliance in Maryland's public works contracts by creating two publicly accessible data dashboards. One to track apprenticeship participation and outcomes and another to monitor prevailing wage compliance, ensuring state-funded projects uphold high standards of fairness and accountability.

In 2014, Maryland passed SB 669 which barred individuals from entering into a contract with the State if they were found to have committed offenses such as fraud, failure to pay taxes, or violated procurement law related to prevailing and living wage rates among other offenses.

These tools have proven in New York and Nevada to ensure that public projects comply with the law and contribute to a stronger labor market.

The first dashboard, which will track apprenticeships, allows for the verification that apprentices are receiving proper training and career development. Similar systems in other states have improved program accountability and strengthened workforce development.

HB 850 provides another tool and transparency for tracking compliance with the law. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 850.