

Subject: Favorable HB508 Blind Industries Repackaging Janitorial Contracts

Date: February 18, 2025

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

15 Charles Plaza, #3002, Baltimore, MD 21201

[president@nfbmd.org](mailto:president@nfbmd.org)

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Health and Government Operations Committee to vote in favor of HB508, a bill requiring State entities to buy janitorial products from Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM).

BISM is the largest employer of blind citizens in Maryland. HB508 will create more jobs for existing and future employees. Blind people want to be taxpayers. We also want to participate in society, and having a job makes that possible.

HB508 will not be a burden on State entities because it states that they should buy janitorial products from BISM “to the extent practicable.”

Please vote in favor of HB508. This bill is a win-win for State entities and the blind citizens of Maryland.