



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1499 - State Procurement - Construction and Services - Contract Modification
House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 13, 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 1499. 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 1499 seeks to require procurement contracts for construction and services to include provisions for contract modification in the case of increased costs due to statutory changes or collective bargaining agreements.

Oftentimes, contracts are written years before a project is started, allowing for inflation, cost-of-living and other factors to change the original agreed upon terms. Allowing for contract modification will ensure workers know what to expect when the project begins in addition to receiving the wages and benefits they are entitled to.

HB 1499 supports responsible labor practices by reinforcing that government contracts should align with the evolving economy and labor standards. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 1499.