



TESTIMONY OF THOMAS L. BELLO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

IN SUPPORT

SENATE BILL 673 / HOUSE BILL 1165 –
STATE PROCUREMENT – APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLETION

BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
AND THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Chair Wells, and Honorable Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.

MCAMW represents union mechanical contractors who perform complex plumbing, piping, HVAC, and mechanical construction work on public projects throughout Maryland and the greater Washington metropolitan region. Our member contractors rely on registered apprenticeship programs to supply a skilled, safety-trained workforce capable of delivering high-quality public infrastructure.

MCAMW proudly represents approximately 200 construction contractors, roughly 10,000 workers, and more than 1,500 apprentices. Our organization contributes significantly to the regional economy, generating nearly \$2 billion in annual revenue and approximately \$500 million each year in combined State, federal, and local tax revenue.

Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165 builds on Maryland's existing procurement framework by introducing a clear and reasonable accountability standard for apprenticeship programs utilized in State procurements. By requiring a minimum apprenticeship completion rate, the bill helps ensure that programs relied upon by contractors are functioning as intended and producing journey-level workers.

From a contractor perspective, apprenticeship completion is critical. Contractors make long-term investments in training, supervision, and mentoring, and depend on apprenticeship programs that successfully graduate apprentices into the workforce. Programs that do not produce graduates undermine workforce planning and create uncertainty for both employers and employees.

Importantly, this legislation preserves the current compliance options available under State procurement law. It does not mandate the creation of new programs or exclude contractors from bidding, but instead aligns public procurement with demonstrable workforce outcomes.

For these reasons, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 673 / House Bill 1165.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas L. Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington