



METROPOLITAN BALTIMORE COUNCIL AFL-CIO Unions

**HB 1173 State Procurement - Contractors and Vendors - Restrictions on Use of State Funds
and Resources
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
March 6th, 2026
Favorable**

To: Chair & members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Courtney Jenkins, President, Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL CIO Unions

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Courtney Jenkins, President of the Metro Baltimore AFL CIO, representing thousands of union members and working families across our region. The Metro Baltimore AFL CIO strongly supports House Bill 1173.

At its core, this legislation is about protecting workers' freedom to choose. Every worker should have the right to decide for themselves whether to form or join a union; free from interference, pressure, or intimidation. When public dollars are involved, the State has a responsibility to ensure that those funds are not used in ways that discourage or undermine that choice.

We support this bill because when workers have a real opportunity to unionize, wages go up, benefits improve, and working conditions become safer and more stable. Union representation gives workers a collective voice to negotiate fair pay, healthcare, retirement security, and job protections. That does not just benefit union members, it raises standards across entire industries and strengthens the middle class.

Allowing workers to freely organize, if they choose, creates better paying jobs and more sustainable career pathways. It builds stronger families and stronger communities. Policies that protect that freedom are pro worker and good for the economy.

House Bill 1173 helps ensure that the choice to unionize belongs to workers themselves. For that reason, we respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Courtney Jenkins



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President
Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO