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HB 864 – Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

February 19, 2026

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 864. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 864 establishes a minimum threshold on public works construction projects, requiring that at least 20% of labor hours be completed by registered apprentices. This legislation invests in our state's workforce development, while reinforcing the importance of apprenticeship opportunities and participation.

Apprenticeship utilization policies are not new. States such as Washington, Nevada, and Utah have implemented similar policies to mandate apprenticeship utilization, as they have recognized that apprentices play a crucial role in building out infrastructure through these projects.

As our state looks to commit itself to significantly expanding apprenticeships, SB 688 takes necessary steps to ensure that our own public works projects support that growth.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 864.



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