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HB 86 - State and Local Employees - Cancer Screening - Paid Leave Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

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SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 86. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 86 ensures that State, county, and municipal employees can take up to four hours of paid leave each year to receive recommended cancer screenings. Too often, employees delay or skip their screening appointments because they cannot afford to lose wages or take time off. As early detection is crucial in cancer prevention, policies that remove barriers to screening, like guaranteed paid leave, do not force employees to choose between their health and well-being and their job. Preventive care saves lives by catching cancer at its earliest and treatable stages while also saving significant long-term healthcare costs for workers, families, and the state.

By codifying paid cancer screening leave, Maryland strengthens its public workforce and invests in the people who keep our state running each and every day.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 86.



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