



Testimony for HB1087

March 4, 2026

Position: Favorable

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation – representing 10,000 healthcare workers in long-term care facilities and hospitals across Maryland. 1199SEIU/United Healthcare Workers East supports House Bill 1087, Health Care Facilities – Surgical Smoke, Smoke Evacuation Systems.

This bill requires healthcare facilities performing surgical procedures to establish and implement a policy to require a smoke evacuation system during a surgical procedure that may generate surgical smoke. Such smoke is a known carcinogen exposing members of the surgical team to harmful smoke inhalation. Twenty states currently regulate surgical smoke and/or surgical smoke inhalation. Maryland should be next.

It is essential that we protect health care workers from workplace occupational hazards and for those reasons we urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1087.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones
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