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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill SB: 0991

Bill Title: Apprenticeship and Training Council – Journey worker–Apprentice Ratios – Electrical Craft or Trade

Hearing Date: March 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Chair: Senator Delores G. Kelley, Vice Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill 0091 and I ask you to add your vote in support for worker protections. Senate Bill 0991 will require the Apprenticeship and Training Council to establish a ratio of less than one journey worker employed at a work site for each apprentice.

Occupations in the construction sector are generally considered hazardous. In order to mitigate the risk of injury to apprentices, it is customary to maintain a journey worker to apprentice ratio closer to 3:1. In fact, it is rare to maintain a ratio which allows more apprentices than journey workers on the jobsite. This bill would ensure the proper supervision, training, safety and continuity of employment for our Maryland apprentices.

Also, when more journey workers are available to deliver critical on-the-job training to our apprentices, we observe higher apprenticeship program completion rates. Especially now when workers statewide are experiencing stagnant wages, we should focus on ensuring that apprentices can advance and command a higher wage.

With an interest of protecting our workers by requiring safe working conditions, I ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 0991.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator