

MARYLAND CATHOLIC LABOR NETWORK

HB 1012 SUPPORT

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Testimony Supporting HB1012: BWI–Thurgood Marshall Workers’ Right to Reinstatement Act
House Economic Matters Committee
Friday, March 5, 2021 at 1:30pm

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

We are a coalition of Catholic laity and clergy of several Catholic Parishes within the Baltimore region who advocate for worker justice, and we urge your support of **HB1012 - The BWI–Thurgood Marshall Workers’ Right to Reinstatement Act**. On behalf of the workers of the greater Baltimore region at BWI, we urge you to give a favorable report to HB1012 to protect these hospitality and service workers’ right to return to their jobs as BWI Airport’s businesses reopen to travelers from around the world.

This legislation provides needed relief for BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport hospitality and service workers who have been laid off, through no fault of their own, due to the pandemic. These jobs are a lifeline to their families. While we understand that it has been necessary for businesses to lay off workers during this crisis, it should not become occasion to replace these workers with a new labor force at lower pay. Making sure each laid-off worker is able to be reinstated to their job as business resumes is a mandate of justice and fairness to these trained and dedicated workers.

Economic security is an essential foundation for strong and healthy families, and HB1012 will help provide it. The hospitality and service workers deserve the same kind of care for their economic wellbeing as was recently given to the businesses that operate at BWI when they received relief in the form of rent reductions, extended leases and access to government grants and subsidies. Workers also need assistance, and they need hope now. The workers also have worries about paying their rent and making it through the hardships brought upon us all by COVID-19.

House Bill 1012 protects the jobs of the workers who have made BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport a model of hospitality and dedicated service to the millions of passengers who have travelled to and from Maryland over the years. Now it is time to ensure that these working men and women can return to their jobs at the airport as travel resumes and business opens back up.

We urge a favorable report on HB1012.

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