



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 388 – Prevailing Wage – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and
St. Mary’s College of Maryland - Applicability
House Economic Matter Committee
February 1, 2022**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 388 – Prevailing Wage – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland - Applicability. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland’s 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

It is the oft stated and long-standing position of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO to advocate for the expansion of Prevailing Wage law to more construction projects in the State. We know that Prevailing Wage brings multiple benefits to communities in the way of an increased tax base, higher quality workforces, and higher standard of living. On State and Local government projects, Prevailing Wage law ensures that the taxpayers are getting the highest quality product for the money while supporting family sustaining jobs. Prevailing Wage law ensures that the next generation of construction workers are receiving the gold-standard in construction training, by increased funding for Apprenticeship Training Programs through the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council (JATC).

HB 388 applies Prevailing Wage to construction projects on Maryland’s publicly funded higher education campuses. This expansion will be a boon to local communities, Journeymen and Apprentices and their families, and to the communities where these utilities operate. Far from being “onerous” as an expense, Prevailing Wage projects prove the old adage that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. By building projects with the highest standards, to begin with, taxpayers will realize great savings on maintenance and repair costs over the life of the project. Maryland’s colleges and universities have been exempted from Prevailing Wage for far too long, and it is time that we fix this oversight and incentivize good jobs with our tax dollars. **For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB 388.**