



February 1, 2022

The Honorable CT Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 388 – Prevailing Wage – University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland – Applicability

Testimony of Victoria Leonard

Position – Favorable

Thank you Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 388. My name is Victoria Leonard, Political and Legislative Director for the Baltimore-Washington Laborers’ District Council (BWLDC), an affiliate of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, or LiUNA for short. The BWLDC represents more than 7,500 members across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our members are proudly employed on many infrastructure construction projects across the region, and many of our members are Maryland residents.

LiUNA supports HB 388. It will expand Maryland’s prevailing wage law to cover University of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College construction projects. Prevailing wage laws ensure that construction workers earn a fair day’s pay and benefits for a fair day’s work by setting a minimum wage rate for public construction investment. It is time to close the loophole that exempts the state-funded university system from Maryland’s prevailing wage law. The reasons are numerous. Prevailing wage:

- Levels the playing field because it creates a standard floor for wages and makes it more difficult for low road contractors who drive construction worker wages down.
- Strengthens the overall economy by supporting good local jobs and spending from those local jobs at local businesses, such as grocery stores, shopping malls and gas stations.
- Prevents government public works spending from driving down local wages and living standards.
- Maintains standards for workers from all backgrounds and enables minorities to benefit from training and apprenticeship programs.

LiUNA urges the committee to vote favorably on HB 388.