



# Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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12 July 2022

Montgomery County Council  
Stella Werner Council Office Building,  
100 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD 20850

President Alborno and members of the Montgomery County Council,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, and our 150,000 rank and file members who live throughout the Metropolitan Washington Area, we would like to stand in solidarity in supporting our brothers and sisters from IBEW Local 26 in **opposition** to Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements.

The knowledge and experience of a certified, licensed electrician are incomparable to that of a "low voltage" worker. To insinuate that these two are the same is to disregard the years of training our members must complete entering the profession. Furthermore, it threatens the livelihood of

Most importantly, this legislation risks you, me, and the general population. To allow someone who does not possess the proper knowledge or skills to operate on 120 - 480 volt fire systems is a critical error of judgment of this council. Several vulnerable populations would be exposed to increased risk should this legislation. Our children in schools and loved ones in hospitals should and need to be in facilities that have worked by licensed skilled labor. There is no substitute for safety or peace of mind.

In closing, this matter has already been deliberated in the House and Senate of the Maryland General Assembly. Therefore, I urge you to follow your fellow legislators' lead and keep Montgomery County Citizens' safety first. Consequently, I ask for an **unfavorable** report on this legislation.

In Solidarity,

**Déjah Désirée Williams, MPP**

Political and Legislative Director

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

***Bringing Labor Together Since 1896***

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