

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of Bill 21-0022R. I moved to Baltimore in 2011 to attend graduate school at MICA and have stayed ever since. The reason why I stayed is that Baltimore's artist community is vibrant, thriving, and inspirational. I have stayed because I maintain other jobs teaching to maintain my practice. But many people do not have the privilege of time or physical and mental ability to have multiple jobs.

Over the years, other friends have moved to other countries and other cities. For instance, friends in Paris and Berlin mention that as working artists they can apply for unemployment when they do not have a contract or a gig lined up. This bill could potentially set Baltimore city apart from other cities in this region of the United States. In particular, this could be a clear demonstration that the city supports artists not just by lip service but by material support.

That said, again, I strongly support Bill 21-0022R and would like for this letter to go on record in support of my support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ada Pinkston