

Testimony

HB 1428 – Environment - Higher Education Facilities - Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems Appropriations March 10, 2020 Support

Today I would like to speak to you in support of HB 1428.

My name is Michael Stewart and I have worked as an HVAC mechanic at Morgan State for over 20 years. I am also the local president for AFSCME local 1885 at Morgan State.

Morgan has had an ongoing mold problem for years. Water and moisture have routinely gotten into various buildings on campus for year. The problem has generally gone unaddressed and our members have long complained of respiratory issues in some of these hot spots.

Most recently major academic and administrative offices have seen an increased growth of mold including Carter-Grant-Wilson, Truth Hall, the Science Complex. Our members and the public routinely use and work in all of these buildings. They are at constant risk due to the lack of rules and protocols on campus and statewide.

The public and public servants should not be canaries in the mine for mold outbreaks. We should be aggressive in setting standards to protect the health of the community and workers. I hope you will support this bill.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation. An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee. 800.492.1996