

# The Baltimore Teachers Union

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AFT 340 AFL-CIO  
Seton Business Park  
5800 Metro Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

**HJ 7 – 2026 FIFA World Cup – Protection of Human Rights  
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
February 24, 2020  
Chair: Delegate Anne Healey  
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, my name is Corey Gaber and I'm a 6th grade English teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools, and an Elementary School Vice President on the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board. I'm also a huge soccer/football fan (go Liverpool!) who is looking forward to the 2026 World Cup being held in 12 cities across North America. I'm writing you today to issue my strong support on behalf of this important resolution.

Living in America it's hard to appreciate just how popular "football" is around the rest of the world, and in particular the World Cup, which puts our Super Bowl to shame in terms of international interest and economic participation. Baltimore and Washington D.C. are finalists among 17 potential host cities and they are now drafting and submitting their final bids to FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association – The governing body of the World Cup Games)

The Baltimore games will be held at M&T Bank Stadium, with Towson University as the practice and preparation facility. The D.C. games will be held at FedEx Field, with University of Maryland College Park as the practice and preparation facility. Based on economic data from previous World Cup games, hosting cities can expect between \$300 MILLION to \$500 MILLION in economic activity. This means the potential impact for Marylanders could be nearly \$1 BILLION, with tens of thousands of international guests in attendance.

Due to its storied past, the World Cup Games have a checkered past on valuing human rights and workers' rights in host countries. In an effort to mitigate potential problems going forward, FIFA has worked with labor rights and human rights organizations to adopt the "Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy" for the games in 2026. This agreement is FIFA's commitment to establish and integrate respect for human rights through the 2026 bidding.

Baltimore and D.C. will receive a higher priority in the bidding process if they can demonstrate adherence to these human rights values within their proposal for bid. Baltimore and D.C. will also be aided in their bids if the State of Maryland shows our commitment to human and labor rights.

Passing the Senate Joint Resolution will give Baltimore and the District of Columbia a better chance in becoming host cities for the 2026 World Cup, and it will reaffirm Maryland's commitment to human rights and labor rights, ensuring that workers, attendees, travelers, Maryland communities, and our economy ALL benefit from the biggest sporting event in the world. Most importantly, it increases the probability that I'll get to watch the best footballers in the world at M&T Bank Stadium! ;)

Sincerely,

Corey Gaber, District 40