



A Union of Professionals
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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
HB 417 - Employees' Retirement and Pension Systems – Reemployment Earnings
Limitation – COVID-19 Exemption
February 22, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh and members of the committee, on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-MD), which represents more than 20,000 educators, government, and healthcare workers across Maryland, I urge you to support SB 402 - Employees' Retirement and Pension Systems – Reemployment Earnings Limitation – COVID-19 Exemption.

State physicians and nurses have borne worst during the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with their regular duties as assigned – they have taken on additional responsibilities in already understaffed facilities. The Maryland health system need emergency help to deal with the lack of staffing.

It takes time to hire new employees. A retiree familiar with the state system can quickly assimilate back into the system more quickly than new hires, and take on responsibilities of the already overstretched staff.

We ask this committee for a favorable report on HB 417. Thank you.

Kenya Campbell
President