

February 15, 2022

To: The Ways and Means Committee Member,

I am writing an UNFAVORABLE opinion of HB 504 Collective Bargaining Public School Employees Authorization to Strike.

I am a parent of 3 school age children in Baltimore County.

After living through 3 disrupted academic school years with my children, I do not understand how granting more authority to bargaining units in this state is a good idea.

I have witnessed the President of the Maryland Teachers Association and the President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County indirectly advocate to keep schools closed “until it is safe to open” while repeatedly changing the definition of “safe to open.”

The emotional, social, psychological and academic damage done to Maryland’s public-school children from the prolonged and unnecessary school closures is becoming more evident every day.

There are policies in place for the public-school bargaining units to go to arbitration when their negotiations stall with the school systems. They also have the Work to Rule action that Baltimore County Public School teachers activated in the spring of 2021.

If no other lessons have been learned from the state’s response to the pandemic, SCHOOL IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR SOCIETY.

Essential employees should not be granted the authority to strike under any circumstances.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy Adams

Timonium MD 21093

[amyciv@hotmail.com](mailto:amyciv@hotmail.com)