



Metro Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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An AFL-CIO "Union City"

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19 January 2023

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Dear Delegate:

On behalf of the 150,000 active and retired members of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO (MWC), I write to you today urging your support for **Maryland H.B. 65**, legislation that would enable Maryland's county public library workers to organize for collective bargaining rights. Unfortunately, the current state laws do not provide such a pathway for thousands in the state's workforce to exercise their constitutional right to join a union.

Collective bargaining is not only necessary because it is a constitutional right. It also provides pathways for workers to work their way into America's Middle Class. In addition, workers can access better healthcare, paid family leave, and other benefits that help support themselves and their families. This legislation does not guarantee union organizing or require library employees to form a union. Instead, it provides currently unorganized workers the necessary steps to show interest in a vote to have union representation, should they wish to do so.

House Bill 65 is also directly aligned with Governor Moore's "Work, Wages and Wealth" platform. This legislation ensures that workers understand and agree with the terms of their employment and can negotiate their wages on an objective and measurable scale. However, collective bargaining does benefit not only the employee but also the employer.

That said, I write to you today to request that you support H.B. 65 and give unorganized county public library workers the option to bargain collectively. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Metro Washington Council Legislative & Political Director Dejah Desiree Williams, MPP, at 202-705-2077 or dejahdesiree.williams@dclabor.org.

In Solidarity,

Dyana Forester

President

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