

February 14, 2023

RE: House Bill 0275 - State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants

Support

Chairman Barnes and House Appropriation Committee Members,

As a University Adjunct Professor for over 20 years, I would like to introduce myself and my colleagues. For those of you unaware, we are the only ones left. We are the only state employees who cannot collectively bargain with our administration for better working conditions such as job security and compensation. We want the right to sit down at the bargaining table and speak for ourselves, to advocate for our students.

With the hard work of over 10 years, community college faculty in Maryland, finally won the right to collectively bargain because of the courage and will of those on this committee. How can the professors at the Maryland's universities be left behind?

We are not asking for handouts or special treatment. This legislation simply gives the faculty and grad students the right to decide for themselves if they want to form a union – not mandate it.

We are the same academic professionals whether at our community colleges or public universities. I, like thousands of other adjunct professors, teach both at our universities and our community colleges but as of now we have disparate faculty experiences. As a community college professor I have the right to collectively bargain but as a University of Maryland Global Campus professor I do not have this right. Where is the fairness in this? The time for change is now. As our governor Wes Moore has said, no one left gets left behind.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 0275 and call on the members to provide a favorable committee report.

Joan Bevelaqua
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