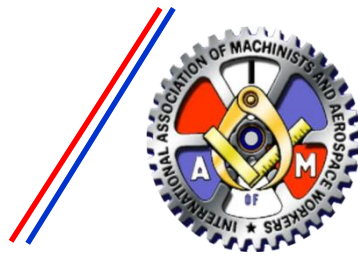


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Area Code 301-967-4500

OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 2, 2023

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), **I write to you today urging your support for H.B.65/S.B.0352, a pro-worker bipartisan bill that would give Maryland's unorganized county library workers the right to organize for collective bargaining rights, if they wish to do so.** Unfortunately, the current Maryland state laws **do not** provide such a pathway for thousands of library employees across the state to exercise their constitutional right to join a union.

Library workers are some of the most highly-regarded public servants across Maryland. They put their community first, and are a valuable asset to our school systems. It's the task of this state legislature to honor that great commitment with the passage of H.B. 65/ S.B. 0352.

Collective bargaining offers a voice in the workplace and the decision-making process. It allows for better collaboration with management, while ensuring workers receive the dignity and respect they deserve for all they do. This proposed legislation, S.B. 0352, sponsored by Majority Leader Sen. Nancy J. King (D-39), would provide a consistent process for employees of unorganized public library systems in Maryland to form a union and to collectively bargain. Del. Steve Johnson (D-34A) co-sponsored the legislation (H.B. 65) in the House of Delegates.

This legislation does not guarantee union organizing or require library system employees to form a union. The H.B.65/ S.B.0352 simply provides currently unorganized workers the necessary steps to show interest for a vote to have union representation, should they wish to do so.

The IAM, headquartered in Upper Marlboro, MD., proudly represents a very diverse workforce in North America, which includes about 460 workers of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) system. The group, which organized with the IAM, ratified a first collective bargaining agreement in 2022. **The BCPL workers only gained this right because the IAM was successful with getting state legislation passed in 2021 that enabled the BCPL workers the right to collectively bargain.**

Library workers' ability to exercise their right to join a union in the state of Maryland should not be based on the county system in which they work, but instead on the universally-recognized right to freedom of association. This freedom should be available to any library worker who wishes to seek the option.

The plight of BCPL workers seeking a pathway to organize also gained the attention of President Joe Biden, who invited an IAM-BCPL member to speak before the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment.

**Again, I write to you today to request you support H.B. 65/ S.B. 0352 and give unorganized county public library workers the option to collectively bargain.**

If you have any questions, please contact IAM Legislative & Political Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President