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BILL NO.: **HB 609**

TITLE: Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers Empowerment Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Solomon

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **Letter of Information**

DATE: February 13, 2024

Baltimore County offers this **Letter of Information** regarding House Bill 609 – Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers Empowerment Act). This legislation would grant collective bargaining rights to libraries across the State of Maryland. Baltimore County supported House Bill 45 in 2021, which similarly allowed Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) employees to collectively bargain. BCPL employees have since elected a union as their exclusive bargaining representative.

HB 609 specifically excludes Baltimore County, as it has previously extended the right to organize to its library employees. BCPL employees are responsible for maintaining one of the County’s most valuable resources. Local libraries provide knowledge to young residents and access to digital resource for those who may not be able to afford their own. The experience of library employees uniquely positions them to contribute ideas for improving library operations across the State of Maryland. Allowing library employees to join a union will empower them to continue cultivating these critical shared spaces and thrive as employees.

For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.