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UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO is writing this letter in support of HB0609 “The Library Workers Empowerment Act (LWEP)”. UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO represents nearly one thousand library workers in Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS). Collective bargaining is fundamental to protecting the rights and dignity of workers.

Library employees across the state work on the frontline of their communities to provide invaluable public service. Since organizing with UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, library workers in Montgomery and Prince George’s County have been able to sit across the table with their employer to bargain for improved wages and working conditions.

In the past, library workers in Maryland have had to pass enabling legislation on a county-by-county basis to collectively bargain with their employers. The Library Worker Empowerment Act (LWEP) will provide a clear and consistent process for workers at unorganized library systems to form a union and collectively bargain.

UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO unequivocally supports the expansion of that right to all library workers in the State of Maryland.