

Written Testimony Submitted for the House Appropriations Committee
Testimony of Jeremy Smith, member, AFSCME Maryland
HB 260 – AN ACT concerning State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Supervisory
Employees
January 26th, 2024

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Michael Boateng, and I am a Developmental Disability Associate Assistant Manager with the Maryland Department of Health. I am now in my second year working for the state. Since starting here a year and a half ago, I have noticed a troubling drop in morale among supervisors that I believe stems from a critical lack of fair treatment as it relates to our positions. As supervisors, we are tasked with ensuring that state operations are functional and efficient, and in this mission we stand side by side with state employees all over Maryland.

However, though we work side by side in the Department of Health, we are not able to sit side by side at the bargaining table. Because Supervisors lack collective bargaining rights, we are unable to ensure that the wages, hours, and working conditions that we are given are equivalent to the support we bring to our teams. We are seeking fair representation at the table to ensure fair treatment on our jobs. For this reason, I ask you to support HB 260, and the supervisors of the state of Maryland.

Michael Boateng
Developmental Disability Associate Assistant Manager
Maryland Department of Health