



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1402 - Montgomery County – State’s Attorney’s Office Personnel – Application of County
Personnel Laws and Collective Bargaining MC 12–24
House Appropriations Committee
March 12, 2024**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1402. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Collective bargaining is a human right. The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 provided millions of workers with the right to form unions and collectively bargain with their employers. It established the official policy of the United States was to promote collective bargaining through worker organizing. This was re-established by President Joe Biden, who issued Executive Order 14025, which stated, “the policy of the United States is to encourage worker organizing and collective bargaining and to promote equality of bargaining power between employers and employees.” Unfortunately, millions of workers were left out from the National Labor Relations Act, leaving them without a legal process for their human right to form a union. These excluded workers include thousands of public sector library workers across the state of Maryland.

HB 1402 is enabling legislation that grants collective bargaining rights to eligible, non-exempt, full time employees of the State’s Attorney’s Office of Montgomery County. Without this legislation, they do not have this right. Maryland already granted collective bargaining rights to the workers at the statewide Office of the Public Defender.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1402.