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**Written Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House Appropriations Committee
HB 260 - State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Supervisory Employees
January 30, 2024**

SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chair Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee. AFT-MD strongly supports HB 260, which will enable collective bargaining for nonconfidential supervisory employees.

This bill is crucial to allow collective bargaining for public employees, it will provide them an avenue to voice their concerns, and negotiate on matters related to pay, benefits, and working conditions.

The current lack of collective bargaining rights has left them without a say in decisions that directly impacts their professional lives. Many of these dedicated individuals face challenges such as resource shortages, inadequate training, and health and safety concerns.

The bill does not extend collective bargaining to new entities but rather removes the "bargaining excluded" status from nonconfidential supervisory employees where collective bargaining already exists.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 260, granting collective bargaining rights to supervisory employees is not just a matter of fairness; it is a step toward ensuring a healthier, more productive work environment for these individuals who play vital roles in state government. Thank you.

