



**ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 2250 AFL-CIO**

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 1175/Senate Bill 1043

As the President of Ace-AFSCME Local 2250, representing over 6,000 proud and well-trained educational support professionals in Prince George's County, I speak in favor of House Bill 1175/Senate Bill 1043. These measures would put into law reasonable standards around contracting for positions in the public school system.

Our contract explicitly mandates the formation of a committee to thoroughly examine such decisions before any hiring of contractors, a process that has been sidestepped in the past. When the new Transportation Director took office, assurances were made to notify Local 2250 of any plans to hire contractors. However, these promises were swiftly contradicted when the Superintendent urged expedited actions without due consultation.

We question the wisdom of that decision, particularly given the financial challenges facing the school system. The previous PGCPs CEO's investigation into this matter revealed potential high costs for contracting out, stating in short, it would cost the school system \$95,000 per new employee. This is a huge concern amplified by the system's strained budget.

Our members have concerns about the training and background checks that occur when positions are contracted out. Our members are mandated to take professional development training throughout the year, a requirement that the contractors do not have. For our bus drivers and bus attendant members, so many are considered full-time employees but can't get 40 hours in a week. Contracting out the work hurts the people who have been dedicated employees for years.

For over two decades, I have served as a bus driver in the PGCPs system. It runs in the family as my mother was a bus driver for thirty years in the PGCPs system. The education support personnel in PGCPs love the students and want to do good work but the lack of value placed on our work is apparent, as evidenced by the disregard for our negotiated agreements when it comes to contracting.

During the pandemic, we were called heroes. Now we are being replaced by the lowest bidder.