

Testimony - SB 1043, School Employers & Employees – Subcontracting for Services
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
March 6, 2024
SEIU Local 500

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

We at SEIU Local 500 represent over 20,000 hardworking union members who serve the people in various roles from cradle to career. Many of our members come from educational support staff backgrounds in Montgomery County Public Schools. These hardworking union members have recently seen their jobs being outsourced to contractors rather than filled as the full time positions they are. In some cases, such as ASL interpreters, we have seen contractors paid more than those staff employed by the school system. In other cases, such as building services workers, due to contract restraints, we have seen janitorial services contracted for mopping and sweeping as operating heavy machinery would be in violation of the contract.

All these issues are raised to address one key question, should good unions jobs that need to be filled by the normal hiring process be circumvented by filling them with paid contractors who are costing us more tax-payer dollars than merely hiring someone for the open position?

The answer is No.

Contractors should not be fulfilling public sector union jobs in our school system. The school systems in this state should be filling open positions through the normal hiring process. And, this bill will put to rest any attempts to circumvent this. A legislative solution to protecting good jobs in the public sector from outsourcing is needed. We at SEIU Local 500 support SB 1043 and ask for a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sally Murek
On Behalf of SEIU Local 500