

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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March 19, 2024

Senator Pamela Beidle
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – HB609 – Library Workers Empowerment Act

Dear Chairwoman Beidle:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), **I strongly urge Senate passage of the Library Workers Empowerment Act (HB609), which recently passed the House of Delegates in a bipartisan 100-33 vote.**

This very important piece of legislation would give thousands of Maryland's unorganized public library workers a fair and consistent pathway to form a union and collectively bargain, if they wish. This bill does not guarantee library workers will form a union, but creates a law for these public workers to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of association.

The current Maryland state law does not provide all public library workers collective bargaining rights. In the past, this has been handled on a county-by-county basis, requiring the state legislature to repeatedly contemplate similar legislation. Public library workers should not be prohibited from pursuing collective bargaining rights simply because the work in a jurisdiction in which legislation has not passed.

The IAM, which is based in Upper Marlboro, MD, champions workers' rights, giving them a voice in the workplace and involvement in the decision-making process. We proudly represent the over 400 employees of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) System.

The U.S. Constitution provides workers the right to form a union; passing the Library Workers Empowerment Act ensures a path for them to access that right.

Again – I urge Senate passage of the Library Workers Empowerment Act (HB609).

Sincerely,

Hasan Solomon
National Legislative Director