

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kathleen Thompson, and I am writing as a Maryland resident in support of Senate Bill 28, the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act.

This legislation is about fairness, stability, and respect for the public servants who keep Maryland running. When collective bargaining reaches an impasse, workers should have access to a clear, reliable path forward. Establishing a structured arbitration process ensures that negotiations do not simply stall indefinitely and that both parties remain accountable to reaching workable agreements.

I support SB0028 because it strengthens the integrity of the bargaining process. Agreements that are reached should be meaningful and implementable. Requiring the budget to reflect negotiated terms promotes transparency, predictability, and good-faith negotiations.

Maryland's state employees provide essential services in public safety, health, transportation, education, and many other areas. A fair process for resolving disputes helps recruitment, retention, and morale, while also supporting consistent delivery of services for residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 28.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thompson