

Testimony in Support of House Bill 443
Appropriation Committee
February 4, 2020

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman McIntosh and members of the Appropriation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 443. We are Charles County employees with 50 years of experience working for the county collectively. We are the people who provide the essential services to the residents of Charles County. We work hard every day to maintain the roads and landfills, provide safe water, maintain our counties' beautiful parks and buildings and many other important services.

We encourage you to support House Bill 443 which will authorize Charles County to provide collective bargaining for us and our co-workers. We are one of the only groups of public employees in the county without the right to collectively bargain and have a voice on the job.

We want to thank the County Commissioners who voted unanimously on September 24, 2019 to include this enabling legislation as a priority for this legislative session. We also want to thank our sisters and brothers in AFSCME Local 2981 who represent 1,100 employees in the Charles County public schools and the Educators Association of Charles County that testified before the Commission in support.

Charles County is the second fastest growing county in Maryland. We, the county workforce, are an important part of that success. We are working with AFSCME Council 67 to build our own local union so we can have a seat at the table when decisions affecting us are made. Our goal is to have a collective voice on the job to ensure that we can continue to deliver the high-quality public services that the residents of the county deserve. As the county continues to grow and prosper, we want to make sure that the workforce, which also lives in the county, does as well.

We ask the committee for a favorable report on HB443.

William Bowman, Brandon Makle, Melvin Hendrick, Jerry West, Mattahies Wall
Kevin Yates, James Willett, Michael Johnson, Jason Newman, Timothy Harley, Greg Keys
Roy Butler, Perry Chisley, Charles Marshall, Christopher Cole