
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 443
Southern Maryland Code Counties—Collective Bargaining**

**Appropriations Committee
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1:00 PM**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 443, authorizing Charles County to enact local laws allowing regular employees to collectively bargain.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Maryland has long celebrated the freedom of association and the role of organized labor. The strength of organized labor is critical to protecting workers, ensuring quality, and maintaining fairness, safety, and competitive wages in the workplace. Strong employee associations are able to solve problems and represent the needs and concerns of employees and the community to benefit everyone.

Teachers and administrators in Charles County already enjoy collective bargaining rights as an affiliate of MSEA. This legislation would allow other public employees to have a voice in their workplaces.

Because MSEA members know that good government comes from fair and just employment practices and advocacy by and for employees, **we urge a favorable report on House Bill 443.**