



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President
Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 641 – Collective Bargaining – Chancellor of the University System of Maryland -
Negotiations
House Appropriations Committee
February 25, 2020**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 641 – Collective Bargaining – Chancellor of the University System of Maryland - Negotiations. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members I submit the following comments.

The modernization of the Collective Bargaining process with the University System of Maryland helps workers, the University System of Maryland, all of the individual institutions, and, ultimately, Maryland taxpayers.

Currently USM has 15 bargaining units comprising about 6600 workers represented by AFSCME in comparison to the state executive branch having six bargaining units comprising over 20,000 employees represented by AFSCME. Each institution under USM comes to the bargaining table with the union, but they lack the final say on management's side of the negotiations. Ultimately, USM will have the final approval on any contract agreed to between a higher education institution and the bargaining unit.

HB 641 streamlines the process, eliminates duplicative efforts, and allows for workers to bargain directly with the University System, instead of going through an extra layer of management that lacks the authority to make a final decision. This saves time for all of the individual institutions, and saves time for the University System of Maryland. With time saved, comes money saved through greater efficiency, providing for a smoother negotiation process, and one that will save money for Maryland's taxpayers.

We urge a favorable vote on HB 641.