

Relford Matthews Oral Testimony
Testimony

BS 660-Collective Bargaining-Chancellor of the University System of Maryland-
Negotiations

Good Afternoon members of the committee. My name is Relford Matthews Sr., I am a Maintenance Mechanic at University of Maryland Eastern Shore and it is also my Alma mater.

As a Maintenance Mechanic my job includes everything as simple as fixing a door to maintaining plumbing systems; from doing electrical work to patching a dorm room wall.

Would the committee assume my job was any different from a Maintenance Mechanic's job at Frostburg? Or would you think that an Administrative Assistant in our Admissions Office is something completely different from someone working at Bowie State?

Of course not.

Yet under our present system, we are supposed to bargain with individual campuses as if they were totally different jobs – HOWEVER, we know that the University System provides guidelines for each campus on wages, terms and benefits.

Let's stop the games.

We should be bargaining with the entity that makes decisions about wages, benefits, policy and working conditions. In the state, the Department of Juvenile Services doesn't have a separate contract from the Department of Human Services or the Department of Health: they have one unified state contract. In Higher Education we shouldn't have 15 different contracts within the USM family, we should have one contract with one set of mutually agreed upon rules.

The harm that is done by having so many contracts is seen in HBCU's which are separate and not equal in the USM system. One contract would help to unify all USM schools resulting in equal wages, policies and procedures.

I ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 660.