

Marietta English
PRESIDENT

Kenya Campbell
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate Finance Committee
SB 693 – State Personnel – Maryland Department of Health
– Pay Rates and Staffing Requirements
March 6, 2020**

SUPPORT

Chair Kelley and members of the Committee, on behalf of the 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Maryland (AFT-Maryland), and as the federation that represents the state employees of AFT Healthcare-Maryland, we ask for a favorable report on SB 693, a bill to bring pay equity to the state employees working at Perkins Hospital, the Behavioral Health Administration, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

This bill would close a loophole that left state workers behind. When the state increased pay for nurses at Perkins in order to recruit and retain high-quality staff, some staff at the hospital were not included. By closing the loophole, employees who treat the same patients, would receive fair and equitable compensation.

Fair wages, increased recruitment and retention, are needed to provide the best care for Maryland's citizens. We ask that state workers receive equitable pay to be compensated fairly, with an appropriate level based on expertise, experience and level of training.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on SB 693. Thank you.

Mariette English
President