



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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An AFL-CIO "Union City"

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HB 1237 – Memorandum of Understanding for State Personnel

House Appropriations Committee

February 24, 2021

SUPPORT

TO: Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair, and members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Dyana Forester, President

On behalf of our 150,000 union members affiliated with the Council throughout Metropolitan Washington D.C. including about 110,000 residents in Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties, we thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of House Bill 1237.

We believe that it is only right and fair to protect state workers' rights and fund each memorandum of understanding that workers meet whether through negotiations or binding arbitration.

Collective bargaining is an essential right that we must protect at all costs. History has shown us that it is the best means for raising wages in America. Through collective bargaining, working people have earned higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces. Requiring funding in Maryland to protect and implement that bargaining is simply the right thing. The Metropolitan Washington Council is proud to stand in solidarity with the state workers of Maryland and we respectfully ask for you to do that same with a favorable report in support of this bill.

In Solidarity,
Dyana Forester

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