

02/06/2021

## **House Bill 894- Education – Community College – Collective Bargaining**

### **SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Ermias Kassaye. I studied Physics and Applied Mathematics at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; and University of Capetown, South Africa. I have been teaching undergraduate Physics and Mathematics courses at different universities and colleges for more than 12 years. My teaching experience has spanned from teaching Elementary College Mathematics and Introductory Physics to Advanced Calculus and Quantum Physics. I have been teaching mathematics courses at Howard Community Colleges since 2017 as an adjunct faculty member.

I am writing this letter in support of a bill HB894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective bargaining. The bill aims at achieving better working conditions, providing quality education for students, and improving the teaching and learning process of our institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our activities significantly. It gives a lesson for workers the need to speak on their own health and safety. It is with this fact that workers need to be heard and have a seat at the table.

It is known that community colleges have produced essential work forces to the country. Their contributions for the community in preparing for careers and advanced studies are immense. The role of instructors and staffs at community colleges is indispensable for the success of the students. Thus, the working conditions of community college staff and faculty significantly affect the student's learning conditions.

Therefore, I strongly support the collective bargain to protect student's health and safety, advocate for better learning conditions, and to prepare students for careers post COVID-19.

Your support, which I am asking you, is crucial in order to pass the legislation. All adjunct professors need a seat at the table where so many decisions are being made about us and our working conditions.

I ask you to vote yes on HB 894 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

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Ermias Kassaye  
Adjunct professor