

02/08/2021

## **House Bill 894—Education—Community Colleges—Collective Bargaining**

### **SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Joseph Stanik. I am a resident of Anne Arundel County and serve as an adjunct professor at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). I am also a retired U.S. Navy officer and a retired Baltimore City high school teacher. I strongly support House Bill 894 (The Maryland Community Colleges Employee Freedom to Collectively Bargain Act of 2021) and its companion bill Senate Bill 746. I firmly believe that Maryland's adjunct professors should have the right to decide for themselves whether they will be represented by a union. Union representation is a fundamental right that over 200,000 other public sector workers enjoy. Community college employees should not be denied that basic right.

Fifteen years ago, I approached administrators at AACC and offered to create and teach a course on the History of the Middle East. The idea was enthusiastically approved, and I set about to design, develop, and launch the course, in both traditional classroom and online formats. I was assigned to teach the course every semester and summer sessions from the fall of 2009 through the summer of 2020. Due to the deleterious impact of COVID-19 on student enrollment, the course has been handed over to other instructors to teach. I not only created the course but also co-authored a comprehensive history of the region, which the AACC administration adopted for the principal text for the course! As an adjunct, I had no say in the decision to reassign the teaching responsibilities for the course and have no recourse in the matter. The course is now taught by instructors, who are not as well versed in its content. Our students deserve the most qualified instructors!

The time has come to grant community college employees, including adjunct professors, the right to bargain collectively. Maryland's adjunct professors deserve fair consideration in the assignment of courses, greater acknowledgement of their invaluable service to the community, improved compensation for their labor and talents, and, most important of all, a seat at the table where policies that affect our students and our livelihoods are discussed and decided upon.

I ask you to vote yes on HB 894 and strongly urge a favorable report from the Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Stanik

Adjunct Professor

