

February 8, 2021

House Bill 894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining

SUPPORT

Dear members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Mary Jeter. I am an adjunct faculty member at AACC. I have been teaching with the ABS/GED program since 2011. I support House Bill 894-Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining. I believe that MD adjunct faculty should have the opportunity to decide to have a union represent us. As an adjunct faculty member, I deserve for my voice to be heard. I want the administration to respect me as a credentialed professional teacher because I have more than 40 years of teaching experience.

Communication is not an active conversation but an email that gives directions of what I am required to do. I am paid only for my teaching hours each week. It is expected for me to be prepared. I am required to submit a class agenda. I am required to check my work email daily. All of this is required without any compensation and on my personal time. I spend at least five hours per week for preparation. I am not paid for checking my email, gathering materials, correcting student work, completing records, and communicating with my students. When Zoom came, no one asked what I needed. I wasn't promised the classes that I had been teaching for the past 9 years. Class size continues to increase. I bought a second screen for my computer to enable me to see all of my students and present my class notes. Communication with my students is on my time and my personal cell phone. Why can't I be afforded an opportunity to have collective bargaining to discuss these difficulties that I meet on a daily basis?

This is the year to get it done. Please give us a voice at a table. Help unmute our voices. Let all adjunct faculty know that they are allowed to speak for their rights. Pass the legislation that will give us collective bargaining rights. We need to be a partner in this education process as we continue through this pandemic crisis. Help us to make Maryland a better place for adjunct faculty to teach.

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

In solidarity,

Mary W. Jeter

Adjunct Professor