

February 8, 2021

House Bill 894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining

SUPPORT

Dear members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Todd Parks. I'm currently a student at Anne Arundel Community College, working toward a project management certificate, but I also hold an Associates Degree in Biology from AACC. I support bill HB894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining because I believe community college staff deserve to decide for themselves whether they want to be part of a labor union. It's a basic right that all other public sector workers enjoy, so why are community college employees being left out?

I returned to AACC for a project management certificate because I had a very good experience previously as a student in a degree program. However, when I realized that almost all faculty at AACC are adjunct faculty, I was shocked. I had no idea that most teachers were not full-time teachers. Lately I have discovered that adjunct faculty have absolutely no job security and that they have to sign up to receive courses every semester, which they may or may not get. I know some of these faculty carry a full load of courses but they have to do this at two or more different institutions, because they are limited in the amount of courses they can carry at one college. They get no health insurance or paid vacation, and if one of their courses get canceled they get no compensation for the lost time in preparing that course. It's amazing that colleges depend on adjuncts so heavily and yet don't want to allow them the right to unionize.

The faculty I know are extremely intelligent, and devoted to their students. They work hard and hold advanced degrees. They deserve our respect.

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