

2/5/21

**House Bill 894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining**

**SUPPORT**

Dear members of the Appropriations Committee:

I'm Dr. Tim Bruno; I earned my PhD at the University of Maryland, College Park, and now I'm a full-time professor at Howard Community College. Clearly I care about Maryland higher education, which is why I enthusiastically support bill HB894 and stand in solidarity with my adjunct colleagues. All community college faculty—adjunct and full-time—are public sector workers and thus deserve the right to decide for ourselves if we want a union.

COVID-19 has called into question the future of Maryland higher ed. The pandemic is no respecter of persons, and without safe workspaces for adjunct colleagues—including healthy, private office spaces for meeting with students—adjuncts, full-time instructors, and students alike will get sick. As colleges across the state make reopening plans, all community college faculty need the right to collectively bargain in order to guarantee students' safe learning conditions by guaranteeing our safe working conditions.

Maryland community college faculty have gone far too long without the basic right to choose, and it's long past time we had a say at our own workplaces. Nothing will better ensure a safe reopening and a healthy future for Maryland higher ed than the right to choose to collectively bargain. I ask you to vote yes on HB 894 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

In unity,  
Tim Bruno  
Full-time Professor