



RETIRED MEMBERS' CLUB
Local Union No. 26
I.B.E.W.

4371 Parliament Place
Lanham, MD 20706

February 22, 2021



TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1237

Memorandum of Understanding for State Personnel

February 24th, 2021

TO: Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair, and members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Susan C. Flashman, Recording Secretary and President of the Maryland/DC Alliance for Retired Americans

Dear Chairperson McIntosh and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

Today I write to you in Support of HB 1237 to amend the Maryland Constitution to require the Governor of Maryland to send in his budget, the appropriations necessary to fund a contract for state workers through negotiations or binding arbitration.

My support of this legislation is based on personal experience working under a Union contract which provides for negotiation and if necessary, arbitration. As a retired member of Local 26, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers I worked over thirty years with the knowledge that my wages and benefits, including retirement benefits were negotiated with the Union contractors, and if arbitration became necessary, that our contract would go to C.I.R.

I am currently the beneficiary of those retirement and health benefits which continue to be negotiated on my behalf by our officers. Knowing that my benefits are secure allows me financial security in my days of retirement. The ability of State Union Workers to receive this same security is not only necessary for members and retirees, and their families, but is part of what encourages workers to seek employment with the State of Maryland. We must maintain these benefits and securities to attract the "Best and the Brightest" employees on behalf of the citizens of the State of Maryland.

In view of my experience and the experience of all Union Workers, I Strongly support HB 1237. I ask that you and the members of the committee vote favorably on HB 1237!

Sincerely,

Susan C. Flashman, Retired Members Club, Local 26, I.B.E.W.

And President of the MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans