



Maryland Classified Employees Association, inc.

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**Written Testimony from Maryland Classified Employee Association, AFT Local 1935
Submitted by Andrew Mayton on behalf of President Linda Day
HB 1237 – Budget Bill – Appropriations Statement – Memorandum of Understanding for
State Personnel
Before the House Appropriations Committee
February 24, 2021**

SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is President Linda Day, and I am the President of Maryland Classified Employees Association (MCEA), AFT Local 1935, the certified bargaining agent for staff at Salisbury University, Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. On behalf of those higher education workers, we ask for a favorable report for HB 1237.

Members of the committee, this bill is necessary because it provides an opportunity for Maryland residents to have greater oversight on the state's budgeting process. Further than that, though, it provides a mechanism by which Marylanders can weigh in on a formal process through which state employees and management can come to a collective bargaining agreement.

Currently, the bargaining process is ultimately very unbalanced and one-sided, and not necessarily in the interest of the residents of the state. State employees have no real recourse to resolve disputes with management at the bargaining table. Binding arbitration offers the state the avenue of having an objective third party professional settle those differences.

This bill merely offers Maryland residents the opportunity to amend the constitution by referendum to have a greater say in the budgeting process. To give the state greater transparency in the process of how state dollars are spent, and to make the bargaining process more efficient, fair, and de-politicized, MCEA calls for a favorable report for HB 1237. Thank you.