



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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## **HB 374 – Collective Bargaining – Baltimore City Community College - Faculty House Appropriations Committee January 27, 2021**

### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President  
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 374 – Collective Bargaining – Baltimore City Community College - Faculty. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

The Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO always stands on the side of workers to fight for their rights to collectively bargain. Whether a worker is in the building and construction trades industry, is a teacher, drives a bus, or serves as faculty at Baltimore City Community College, they deserve the right to come together and negotiate for their interests in the workplace.

HB 374 establishes a collective bargaining process for Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) faculty, and excludes officers, supervisory or confidential employees, part-time faculty, and student assistants. By granting collective bargaining rights to faculty at BCCC, Maryland takes one more step towards creating a more equitable environment for more workers in our State. It is time to give BCCC faculty a say in their pay, benefits, and working conditions. It is time to give them the right to collectively bargain for themselves.

In a recent Executive Order, President Biden reaffirmed the position of the United States on collective bargaining rights by stating “*It is also the policy of the United States to encourage union organizing and collective bargaining.*”<sup>1</sup> We believe that the State of Maryland should follow the lead of the United States and do the same. HB 374 is an affirmation of our values to encourage and empower workers to decide their own fate, and not be tied solely to the decisions of the employers. **We urge a favorable vote on HB 374.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/22/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce/>