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**Written Testimony submitted on  
The Maryland House Appropriations Committee  
HB 894 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining  
February 10, 2021**

**SUPPORT**

Chair McIntosh and members of the Appropriations Committee. On behalf of the 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers-Maryland, (AFT-Maryland), we ask for a favorable report on HB 894 - Collective Bargaining for Community Colleges.

President Joseph Biden, in a recent executive order, 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>

This legislation would establish collective bargaining rights for community college employees statewide. Giving faculty and staff a “seat at the table” when negotiating their own pay, benefits and retirement.

On too many non-union campuses, educators and staff are not seen as partners in their support for the institution. With collective bargaining, employees can speak with one voice to promote the college and move it forward.

We believe those who truly care about higher education and academic freedom should support the fundamental right of all employees to organize and allow their voices to be heard.

We ask for a favorable report for HB 894. Thank you.

Marietta English  
President

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