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**SB 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining
Senate Finance Committee
March 4, 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 provide testimony in support of SB 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

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.*”¹ We believe that the State of Maryland should follow the lead of the United States and do the same.

SB 746 establishes a collective bargaining process for local community colleges and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) employees including full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and staff, but excluding officers, supervisory or confidential employees, and student assistants. Our affiliates, CWA Local 2100, AFSCME 67, AFSCME 3 and AFT MD currently represent several hundred employees on various community college campuses, and actively negotiate collective bargaining agreements with the college administrations.

We urge support of SB 746 to allow the faculty and staff of all of Maryland’s Community Colleges, to decide in a fair election if they want to be represented and have a collective voice in negotiating with the college administration to improve working conditions and ultimately positive outcomes for the college and students.

We ask for a favorable report on SB 746.

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