

March 4, 2021

**BILL HEARING: Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges  
Collective Bargaining**

**SUPPORT**

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Chris McComb and I'm an adjunct professor at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) and the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). I support bill SB 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining because I believe that every individual deserves to have a voice in decisions that impact our ability to earn a living.

Enrollment in community colleges declined significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As adjuncts, my colleagues and myself are not guaranteed credit hours and, because of reduced enrollment, many of us faced drastic reductions in course work. I received the Faculty Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty in 2019 from PGCC and an Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award from UMGC in 2020, yet I still only got a 60% schedule at the community college. Even with my reduced course load, I still regularly spend much more than forty hours, sometimes upwards of fifty hours per week teaching classes, prepping, and grading, and most importantly, spending time with my students.

I've always prided myself on developing a rapport with my students. To thrive, students need to feel a connection -- now more than ever. My classes are regularly filled with former students taking follow-up classes with me or with new students who have been referred to me by my former students. When they ask what classes I'm teaching next semester so they can stay with me, to continue that bond, I always feel badly - and somewhat ashamed - because I can't answer them. I don't know what my schedule will be until right before the next semester begins.

This has been a difficult year for everyone, to say the least. I am extremely lucky that my family and I have been healthy, and I would never presume to compare my struggle with that of anyone who has been more directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the circumstances of the past year highlight the value of teachers who are passionate about their students but endure unfair treatment because their voices are ignored.

This legislation is fundamental to keeping Maryland's Community Colleges running effectively and rebuilding the state as we recover and rebuild from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I ask you to vote yes on SB 746 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

In Solidarity,

Chris McComb