

March 4, 2021

Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining

SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Dr. Jeffrey S. Moore. I am a full-time Associate Professor of English at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. I am writing to express my support of senate bill 746 , and to express my hope that the members of the Senate Finance Committee will vote to move this legislation forward. I believe that all community college faculty and staff, regardless of whether they are part-time or full-time, deserve the right to determine if they want to be represented by a union.

Education has always been extremely important to me and I believe it is one of the bedrocks of a thriving society. Community colleges provide invaluable education, job training, artistic, and social services to their students and the surrounding community. But these services can only continue if faculty and staff have the support and resources they need. Cuts to education funding, and more recently the COVID-19 global pandemic, have given rise to concerns over the future of higher education in Maryland, which I believe will be detrimental to the state in the long run. Among the resources community college faculty and staff needs are access to clean office and classroom spaces; appropriate healthcare options; fair compensation; job security; and more.

I firmly believe that the ability to collectively bargain will benefit the faculty and staff of Maryland's community college, and that those benefits will be passed on to the public. Faculty and staff deserve the right to have a say in how their workspaces and job functions will be performed, and there is no more efficient or effective way to do this than through collective bargaining. For this reason, I fully support the passage of

Senate Bill 746 and urge the committee members to vote yes on advancing the bill to the state legislature.

Regards,

Jeffrey S. Moore, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Howard Community College