

March 4, 2021

**Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining
SUPPORT**

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have been teaching guitar for 56 years and at Howard Community College for 34 years. I am writing in **support** of the freedom of employees to decide if they wish to engage in collective bargaining. Senate Bill 746 is simply extending the same basic rights as our colleagues at four-year institutes, K-12 education, and even Montgomery Community College.

It is my opinion that the two most important things in life are health and education. Teachers in schools grades K through 12 are treated much better than adjunct college teachers. While the K through 12 grade teachers are not always treated the best, their situation is still much better than the adjunct college teachers, who are 75% of the college faculty. Why is this? Economically it is like the 1% of our population that controls and benefits financially with the middle class dissolving and the poor unable to rightfully participate. So I ask the Maryland legislature to please pass bill SB746 and begin to help the teachers in the community colleges who are doing their best to make our country the best in the 2nd most important aspect of our society: education.

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

Sincerely,

Bruce Casteel
Howard Community College