

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

### **SUPPORT**

Dear members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Paulette Guy and I am adjunct faculty at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland. I am in support of Senate Bill 746 which in essence would give community college employees a voice at the table. Just as other public sector workers were given the right to choose for themselves whether or not to be represented by a union, I believe I also should be given that fundamental right.

As you know COVID-19 has greatly impacted our state, nation and the world. Bringing it closer to home; COVID-19 has impacted the community college and me personally. Before COVID-19 I taught CPR and First Aid classes regularly at the college and in the community. Twenty twenty-one marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year of teaching for the college. The CPR Training Center (TC) at Prince George's Community College (PGCC) has been on lockdown since April 2020 because of COVID-19. This means all the CPR instructors under PGCC's TC that were teaching at the college or in the community have been unable to conduct classes. American Heart Association, National Safety Council and other organizations have lifted their ban on in-person classes but PGCC's training center remains on lockdown. CPR is an essential service but the training center remains on lock down in spite of the fact some other departments are allowed to conduct in person classes or labs. My voice is not able to be heard at the present. If I and other instructors were allowed to collectively bargain things might be different. Classes could have been conducted safely and in compliance with CDC and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines. Neither the TC nor any of the instructors were given a voice in the choice to remain on lockdown. Other training centers have safely been conducting CPR and First Aid classes but since the instructors at PGCC have no voice we have not been able to provide an essential service to so many. Collective bargaining could have paved the way for the reopening of our training center but because we have no voice, we have had no say in the training center reopening.

This is the year to give community college employees a seat at the table. I urge you to pass this legislation so our voices can also be heard. This legislation is needed to help maintain Maryland community colleges as safe, employee friendly and community minded places of higher learning. I ask that you vote yes on SB746 and strongly urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Paulette Guy