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BILL NO.: **SB 138**

TITLE: **Education - Baltimore County Public Library - Collective Bargaining**

SPONSOR: **Senator Hettleman**

COMMITTEE: **Finance**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 4, 2021**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 138 – Education - Baltimore County Public Library - Collective Bargaining. This legislation would authorize employees of the Baltimore County Public Library to form, join, and participate in a union.

Baltimore County Public Library employees are responsible for maintaining one of the County’s most valuable resources. Local libraries provide knowledge to young residents and access to digital resources for those who may not be able to afford their own, they provide a communal space for residents to engage with their community and beyond. During the COVID-19 pandemic, library staff made sure that many vital resources were still available to the public even as so many businesses were shutting their doors.

The experiences of BCPL employees uniquely position them to contribute ideas for improving library operations County-wide for both staff and residents. County Executive Olszewski is a staunch supporter of collective bargaining rights, and understands that allowing BCPL employees to join a union will empower them to speak with one voice. Librarians deserve to have a say in the way their libraries function, and the community will benefit from their input.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 138. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.