

March 4, 2021

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

Dear members of the Finance Committee:

I am an Adjunct Professor of Communications at Howard Community College, Baltimore County Community College, and Coppin State University living in Hyattsville (District 1). I **support** 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.

For starters, it is incredulous that our front-line workers are working in this modern era with zero voice and muted professional input. No working professional should be forced to accept archaic working conditions here in Maryland (or anywhere else in the U.S.) The solution is quite an easy fix: pass SB 746. This bill brings us out of an outdated work system—often rife with antiquated politics—and pushes our educational economy squarely into the 21st Century.

I remind you all that our working conditions are our student's learning conditions. The benefits of collective bargaining could mean job security, a space for faculty to meet with students, safe and healthy working conditions after a pandemic, and much much more. Our working professionals have had to endure decades of unfair labor practices with no relief in sight. And to answer “no” on this bill, would set us back indefinitely longer.

For us to decide on the right side of history, the choice to pass this bill is the best choice for all Marylanders. In an era where historic injustices are finally being addressed and righted, to add one more labor injustice to our course correction is the absolute right choice.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Tatum, M.A., M.A.

Adjunct Professor, Communications