



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB 138**
Education – Baltimore County Public Library – Collective Bargaining

Senate Finance Committee

February 4, 2021

1:30 PM

Presented to: Delores G. Kelley, Chairman

By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to SB 138.**

SEIU is the largest union in North America. We have united 2,000,000 workers in health care, public services, including public education, and property services, to improve the lives of our members and the services they provide. In the Maryland, DC, Virginia area, we have over 50,000 members.

More than 1,000,000 SEIU members are public employees who enjoy the rights and benefits of collective bargaining. We believe that the vast majority of workers, with few exceptions, should have their right to organize recognized and respected and put into law.

Across the State of Maryland over 150,000 workers in the public sector at the federal, state, county, local and school district level have the right to organize. Why do we tolerate so many exceptions to this right? Why should BCPL employees be an exception?

Many states have adopted a comprehensive public employee labor relations law, covering almost all public employees. Maryland should consider doing likewise. In the meantime, we should no longer delay or deny library workers in Baltimore County the right to organize.

We applaud Senator Hettleman for sponsoring this legislation.

We listen to the words of President Biden who said on January 22, ***“It is also the policy of the United States to encourage union organizing and collective bargaining. The Federal Government should be a model employer.”***

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We believe Baltimore County Public Library and well as all public employers ought to be model employers. Supporting SB 138 would be an excellent outward sign.

We urge a Favorable Report on SB 138. Thank you.