



## SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Testimony in FAVOR of HB424  
Public Financing Act – Matching Fund Revisions

House Ways & Means Committee  
February 2, 2021  
1:30 PM

Presented to : Anne R. Kaiser, Chairman  
By: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Favorable Report to** HB 424

We thank Delegate Feldmark for sponsoring this bill, as well as all the Marylanders who have worked so tirelessly over the years to make our elections fair and open.

With over two million members, SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are uniting workers in the sectors health care, public services, including in public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. In the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area, we represent over 50,000 workers.

Over the past 15 years, our SEIU has been one of the largest contributors to campaigns in Maryland, including campaigns for governor. The average contribution to our PAC is less than \$5 per year, but by putting together thousands of contributors, we make a difference.

We believe, despite our contributions, that public financing is the best way for us to have campaigns and candidates that are not interested in connecting to and responding to average voters, including SEIU members and their families.

Public financing has worked in several states. In fact, it has worked in Maryland. It is highly doubtful that Larry Hogan would have been elected, if not for public financing in his first campaign, so this legislation should be bi-partisan.

**We ask a Favorable Report on HB424.** Thank you.