

*Written Testimony of*

*KELLY MILLS*

*RE: Support of HB 1225*

*Submitted to the Maryland House Appropriations Committee on March 4, 2022*

*I am a Maryland voter writing in support of HB1225. As an employee of Harford County Public Library, this legislation directly impacts my ability to improve working conditions through collective bargaining. I have been employed with HCPL for 7 1/2 years, and in that time, I have watched far too many coworkers leave the system in pursuit of better opportunities. Out of the group of 6 Library Associates that started with me, I am the only one remaining. I and many of my colleagues have spoken to management and to the Board of Directors, but our voices have gone unheard. During a recent Compensation and Classification study, the positions of many front-line workers were downgraded, while management positions saw significant enhancements. Positions that are part of the approved budget have been vacant for years, leaving those of us who stay to take on the full responsibilities of multiple positions.*

*Having previously worked for Harford County Public Schools, I directly experienced the benefits of having a bargaining unit working with administration on our behalf. I would like the opportunity to work with the administration of HCPL through collective bargaining to improve the working conditions for employees and the services we offer to our public.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kelly Mills*