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Ways and Means Committee
Education Subcommittee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0770 - Enoch Pratt Free Library - Collective Bargaining
Hearing: March 1st 2022

Chairman McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

HB0770 extends collective bargaining rights to the employees of Enoch Pratt Free Library by recognizing these employees as holding a position in the service of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. Collective bargaining is the right of individual employees in a workplace to come together and choose a representative, based on a majority vote, who will then negotiate with their employer over terms and conditions of employment. Collective bargaining does not simply provide a mechanism for labor negotiations but it can also help to more efficiently facilitate communication between Enoch Pratt leadership and staff.

The employees at Enoch Pratt Free Libraries have long supported community members who have many economic and social challenges by providing access to and information about many vital resources. The employees at Enoch Pratt Free Libraries have a unique and important role in Maryland's landscape; it is only fitting that these employees be afforded the opportunity to decide if pursuing a union is in their best interest. This bill does not establish a union at Enoch Pratt Free Library but merely enables the process necessary to bring this decision to a vote.

With the foregoing in mind, I request the Committee vote favorably on HB0770.

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie Smith