



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
SB 409 - State Retirement and Pension System – COVID-19 –
Related Death Benefits – Sunset Extension
March 22, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh and members of the committee, on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-MD), which represents more than 20,000 educators, government, and healthcare workers across Maryland, I urge you to support SB 409 - State Retirement and Pension System – COVID-19–Related Death Benefits – Sunset Extension.

Many of our members in the state government were required to stay on the job during the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant while most of us limited our exposure to the public – they were required to continue to be exposed to others in order to perform their jobs.

State physicians and nurses have borne worst during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were exposed to COVID patients on a daily basis and were required to test and vaccinate Maryland citizens. Many state workers have contracted COVID. They and their families need extended benefits until we see the end of this pandemic.

We ask this committee for a favorable report on SB 409. Thank you.

Kenya Campbell
President