

Written Testimony of

JASON MILLS

RE: Support of HB 1225

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

I am writing to urge you to support HB1225, to allow the employees of the Harford County Public Library to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the HCPL administration.

This bill is not about “unionizing” the public library system. It is about giving HCPL employees a voice to represent their interests and to work with HCPL administration to develop and work toward mutually advantageous goals.

As an employee of the Harford County Public Schools, I have seen first hand how collective bargaining can benefit both employees and employers. When employees have the ability to bargain for their interests, morale improves, and with it, motivation, productivity, customer service. Collective bargaining has been proven, time and time again to benefit both employees and employers, when bargaining is done in good faith.

Currently HCPL lacks leaders. There are plenty of “bosses” – supervisors and managers, but there are few leaders. Leaders seek input from their employees. As a spouse of a HCPL employee, I have seen and heard about too many instances of HCPL administration not only ignoring the voices of employees, but actively trying to silence them. Collective bargaining will guarantee HCPL an opportunity to cooperatively resolve issues.

Please support HB1225. In doing so, you will be supporting the Harford County Public Library system, ensuring outstanding service to our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jason Mills