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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 472**

**TITLE:**                State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Revisions and  
Budget Bill Appropriations

**SPONSOR:**            Senator Kramer

**COMMITTEE:**        Budget and Taxation Finance

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 16, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 472 - State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Revisions and Budget Bill Appropriations. This legislation would establish a binding arbitration process in collective bargaining negotiations.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski is an avid supporter of the empowerment of workers through collective bargaining agreements. Collective bargaining provides employees with the opportunity to gain representation in decisions made by an employer that will have consequences for the system at large, and allows employees to advocate with one unified voice for working conditions that suit their needs.

Neutral arbitrators facilitate the negotiation process between employees participating in a collective bargaining program and their employers. Binding arbitration strengthens the neutral arbitration process by holding all parties involved to the decision of the arbitrator. By including fringe benefits, health benefits, and pension benefits in collective bargaining negotiations, SB 472 would also significantly expand the rights for which workers in a collective bargaining agreement may negotiate.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 472. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).