**Written testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on
SB 475 - Maryland Transit Administration Police - Collective Bargaining -
Supervisors and Sergeants
March 29, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh and members of the Committee, on behalf of the more than 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Maryland (AFT-Maryland), including the Maryland Classified Employees Association, we ask for a favorable report on SB 475, a bill that would extend the right to engage in collective bargaining for sergeants and supervisors within the Maryland Transportation Administration Police. Every other employee classification within the MTA is covered under collective bargaining except for these employees, and this bill would close this unfair loophole.

Collective bargaining for various employees within MTA– from mechanics and technicians, to clerical and office staff, through bus and other mass transit operators has existed in law since 1984, and is covered under the Transportation article in Maryland Code. And in the years since, the state has greatly expanded state employees' right to engage in collective bargaining. However, in these 40 years, MTA police sergeants and supervisors have been unfairly excluded from these provisions for nearly 40 years.

In those 40 years, state employees in this excluded class have had little to no recourse to some sort of due process or grievance rights that seem to have been given to nearly every other state employee, Additionally, unlike nearly every other state employee, this excluded class does not have a seat at the table when it comes to fair and appropriate compensation for work done in the service of the state.

SB 475 closes this loophole within collective bargaining law within the state's Transportation Article, and once again AFT-Maryland calls for a favorable report. Thank you.

Kenya Campbell
President