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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 227 – State Government – Legal and Employee Holiday – Juneteenth
National Independence Day
Health & Government Operations
February 1, 2022
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports the passage of HB 227. This legislation establishes Juneteenth National Independence Day as a State legal holiday and State employee holiday.

AFSCME Council 3 represents approximately 30,000 State and higher education employees throughout Maryland. While we were able to formally achieve Juneteenth as a State employee holiday through collective bargaining, our siblings in higher education have not been afforded the same.

Establishing Juneteenth as a State legal holiday and employee holiday would remove any doubts as to the recognition and memorializing of this date. More importantly, the acknowledgment of the historical importance of this holiday – one that reverberates especially strongly these past years – is well overdue.

AFSCME Council 3 urges a favorable report of HB 227.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
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