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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Sponsor Testimony – HB 116**

**Trustees of the Walters Art Gallery - Collective Bargaining**

Dear Chair Barnes and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to present House Bill 116. This bill will enable collective bargaining rights for the non-managerial and non-confidential employees at the Walters Art Gallery.

HB 116 amends Baltimore City's Public Local Laws to provide collective bargaining rights and delegate authority to administer and enforce those rights to the City of Baltimore.

The Walters Art Gallery was created by City ordinance and an act of the General Assembly in 1933, when Henry Walters left his gallery and collection to the City of Baltimore. While a unique institution, it is a public institution that is under the Maryland Public Information Act. City funds are used to help pay employee salaries and benefits and the institution is under oversight of the Mayor and City Council.

Current gaps in the Maryland labor law do not define a process for their employees to gain union recognition.

Previous legislation passed by the General Assembly has assisted public workers in exercising their rights, such as legislation passed in 1982 with the Baltimore Police Department and in 2021 with the Baltimore County Public Library system.

I respectfully request a favorable report and thank you for your consideration.