

**SB428 Washington County CB\_AFSCME FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cindy Smalls

Position: FAV



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SB428 Washington County - Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputies –  
Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining  
Appropriations Committee  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Support

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) representing public employees in Maryland on the state, county, and municipal level, supports SB 428 Washington County – Deputy Sheriff and Correctional Deputies – Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining.

The right of collective bargaining makes sense in America, especially in the State of Maryland. Where collective bargaining exists, employees and employers are provided with the opportunity to join together in tackling work related issues. Our members know the value public employees bring to the community and to those they serve. We have seen, first-hand, that collective bargaining not only gives employees a voice on the job, but also helps foster positive changes amongst all parties.

As the elected union for most bargaining units of State and Local/Municipal Government Employees, AFSCME negotiates for wages, benefits, and working conditions on behalf of employees. Most importantly, we work with the employee’s state and local government agencies to create things such as labor-management committees in order to work collaboratively to find resolutions on the many issues impacting government operations. For example, short staffing in state government or cost savings work projects in cities and counties.

This bill authorizes full-time sworn deputy sheriffs and correctional deputies in the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, at or below the rank of sergeant, to engage in collective bargaining with the Washington County Sheriff and the Washington County Administrator. Any additional funding required as a result of a collective bargaining agreement is subject to approval by the County Commissioners. The bill’s provisions may not be construed to authorize or otherwise allow sworn deputy sheriffs or correctional deputies to engage in a strike, as specified. The bill also alters the statutory provisions that specify the grounds on which a deputy sheriff of a specified rank may be discharged.

SB 428 is not only a good bill but a fair bill, which seeks to give these workers the right to collectively join their voices at the workplace. We urge you to support this bill. Workers have the right to have their voices heard. Let’s give them the opportunity to do so.

We urge a favorable report on SB428.

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

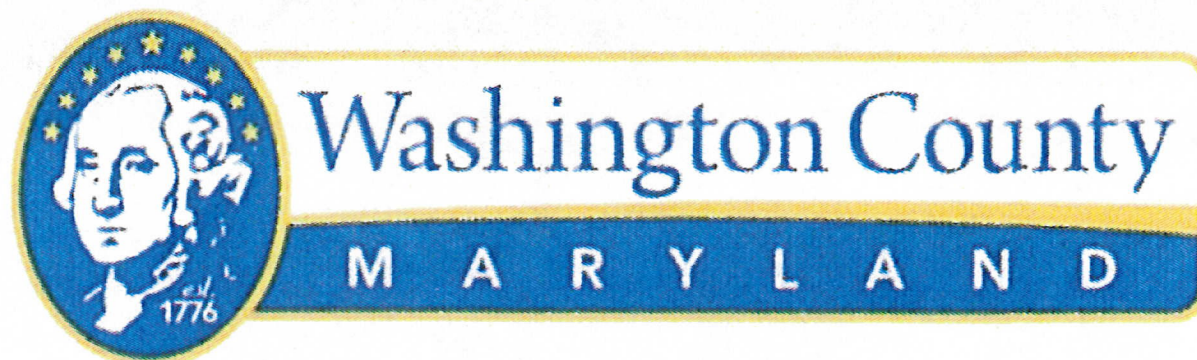
TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687

# **SB 428 Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

John F. Barr, *President*  
Jeffrey A. Cline, *Vice President*



Derek Harvey  
Wayne K. Keefer  
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 3, 2023

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: - Senate Bill 428; Washington County-Deputy Sheriffs and Correction Deputies-  
Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Smith:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports Senate Bill 428. SB 428 would alter the grounds on which a deputy sheriff with the rank of major or below, in Washington County, may be discharged after two years of continuous employment; provides that a special deputy sheriff in Washington County is not a State employee for certain reasons; and authorizes sworn deputy sheriffs at the rank of sergeant and below and correctional deputies at the rank of sergeant and below to engage in collective bargaining with the Washington County Sheriff and the County Administrator.


This bill updates certain terminology to comply with changes in State law as a result of the Police Accountability Act. The bill also authorizes the Sheriff and County to engage in collective bargaining with sworn deputies and correctional officers. Collective bargaining would not occur unless the sworn deputies and/or correctional officers of certain ranks asked to be recognized as a collective bargaining unit. The bill defines the issues that could be the subject of the collective bargaining negotiations.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve SB 428.

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 3, 2023  
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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:   
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Senator Paul D. Corderman  
Senator Mike McKay

# **SB 428 National Correctional Employees Union LOS.p**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV



# NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

30 North King Street, Northampton, MA 01060

February 20, 2023,

Dear Chairman William Smith Jr., Vice Chairman Jeff Waldstreicher, and Distinguished Members Jill Carter, William Folden, Mary-Dulany James, Mike McKay, Anthony Muse, Charles Sydnor III, Alonzo Washington, and Chris West of the Maryland Judicial Proceedings Committee;

On behalf of the National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU), I write with respect to pending legislation (SB0428) which would permit collective bargaining for sheriff's deputies working at the prison in Washington County, Maryland.

Please know the National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU) is the exclusive bargaining representative for correctional personnel in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania. Recently, the NCEU was contacted by the detention center deputy sheriff's from the Washington County Prison in Hagerstown, MD desiring to organize for collective bargaining. After talking with the group and holding meetings for the purposes of providing information, the NCEU filed a certification petition with the Washington County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with their rules. The NCEU obtained a "showing of interest" of approximately eighty percent (80%) of interested staff desiring to be unionized. The County Commissioners, by and through their County Attorney, sent a letter explaining that under Maryland Code, Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Subsection 2-335, "*The Maryland General Assembly has not granted authority to the Washington County Sheriff to engage in collective bargaining.*"

As of the date of this letter, the hard working men and women of Washington County Sheriff's Office and Prison desire the ability to unionize and collectively bargain with their employer. The submitted legislation before you, with the support of the newly elected Sheriff Brian Albert and current County Commissioners by way of a unanimous vote, would allow for the sheriff's department personnel to unionize and bargain collectively.

The NCEU is in full support of the proposed legislation and urges you to take the necessary steps to pass said legislation. The ability to collectively bargain for wages, benefits, and working conditions is critical for the men and women of the Washington County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center who work each day under difficult and highly stressful conditions to ensure that our communities are safe and the prison is secure.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Murphy".

Christopher Murphy, President

National Correctional Employees Union

Office: 413-788-6238

Fax: 413-273-1023

[www.nceu.org](http://www.nceu.org)

# **SB 428 Sen Corderman Testimony for House.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV



**PAUL D. CORDERMAN**  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 403  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3903 · 301-858-3903  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903  
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

March 29, 2023

House Appropriations Committee  
Chairman Ben Barnes  
Vice Chair Mark S. Chang  
House Office Building  
Room 121  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 428 – Washington County – Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputies – Employment Conditions & Collective Bargaining**

Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, & Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 428 this afternoon. As the state of Maryland continues to improve police/public relations, it is important that we recruit and retain professional and competent men and women to serve our communities. In an effort to increase morale and include both public safety and corrections employees in the discussion surrounding benefits and compensation, we are presenting this bill, which would afford Patrol Deputies (sworn Law Officers) and Correctional Deputies the opportunity to participate in collective bargaining. This bill is supported unanimously by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners, as well as the National Correctional Employees Union.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman  
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties

# **SB 428 Wash Co Delegation LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

DELEGATE WILLIAM J. WIVELL  
CHAIR  
SENATOR MIKE W. MCKAY  
VICE-CHAIR



SENATOR PAUL D. CORDERMAN

DELEGATE TERRY BAKER  
DELEGATE BROOKE GROSSMAN  
DELEGATE WILLIAM VALENTINE

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Miller Senate Office Building 2 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith,

The Washington County Delegation voted unanimously to support "SB0428 (HB0637) Washington County - Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputies - Employment Conditions and Collective Bargaining". We respectfully request your support of this bill as amended.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at [William.Wivell@house.state.md.us](mailto:William.Wivell@house.state.md.us), or by phone at 410-841-3447.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Wivell".

William Wivell, Chair  
Washington County Delegation