



Maryland Classified Employees Association

SUPERVISORS UNITED FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
HB 183**

**State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Supervisory and Managerial Employees
January 31, 2023
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Brian Heggelke and I am the Computer Network Specialist Supervisor for the Talbot County Health Department (TCHD). I've been here for about 5 years. I am a member of Maryland Supervisors for Collective Bargaining Rights and the Maryland Classified Employees Association, AFT local 1935. As a state supervisor, currently excluded from the state's collective bargaining law for Maryland employees, I am here today to advocate for HB 183, and ask this committee for a favorable report.

I have a Bachelors in Computer Information Systems and have been in this field for 17 years. My role at TCHD requires me to serve as the service desk manager and the systems administrator – a jack of all trades, responsible for keeping the computer network running securely and in compliance with state regulations. I am also appointed as my agency's Information Systems Security Officer, responsible for ensuring best practices and regulations for HIPAA, PII, and PHI are being followed. In support of this role, I'm studying to attain my Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification – one of the most rigorous IT certifications. Currently, I'm restoring TCHD's connection to the network after the December 2021 cyber-attack that MDH experienced. This has been a long, tedious process, basically requiring me to rebuild our network switching and server infrastructure.

Collective bargaining has become an essential component for attracting and retaining qualified, competent, experienced IT staff that can help mitigate disasters like the December 2021 cyber-attack on MDH. Collective bargaining is simply in Maryland's best interest in order to build and maintain a strong security posture against ever-increasing cyber-attacks.

To conclude, when state collective bargaining law was introduced and passed over 20 years ago, we as supervisors were erroneously excluded, even though we are state workers and do not hire, fire, promote, or adjust grievances for any state employee. We again call this committee to issue a favorable report for HB 183. Thank you.