



AFT 340 AFL-CIO
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Testimony in Support of House Bill 984

Public Employee Relations Act

House Appropriations Committee

March 7, 2023

1:00pm

The Baltimore Teachers Union supports House Bill 984, and urges a favorable report on this bill.

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents 8,280 teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, clinicians, librarians, secretaries, community school site specialists, bus transportation aides, and many more school-based and central office support staff. We are 4 out of 5 workers in Baltimore City Public Schools, serving 75,595 students and their families. Our national union, the American Federation of Teachers, has over 1.7 million members in the United States and its territories.

House Bill 984 is a long overdue bill that ensures the members of the Baltimore Teachers Union could have unfair labor practices quickly and fairly resolved, and would make sure that Maryland's labor law was enforced by a labor board with the tools and remedies needed to ensure that we are able to retain our valued educators by providing them equitable access to fair labor standards.

This bill would standardize collective bargaining laws. It helps to clarify, strengthen and make efficient the MD state law related to public employees and brings best collective bargaining practices to Maryland labor law.

HB 984 provides much needed reforms to bring Maryland public sector labor law in line with federal law and with many states' public sector collective bargaining law.

BTU urges a favorable report on House Bill 984.