

Appropriations Committee
Hearing: Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 1pm

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I write to you as both a Trustee of the Walters Art Museum and also a resident of District 46 to urge you to reject House Bill 116, "Trustees of the Walters Art Gallery - Collective Bargaining," filed by my Delegate Robbyn Lewis. This bill is at once unnecessary, anti-democratic, and overly broad.

HB 116 is anti-democratic because it would deprive each individual employee of the right to vote on forming a union. It is, in fact, astonishing that an elected representative body such as the Assembly would propose a bill that seeks to deprive a group of people employed by an organization in the State of Maryland of their own right to vote on an issue essential to their livelihood.

HB 116 is anti-democratic because it would deprive the museum's employees of their legal right to vote on forming a union. It is, in fact, astonishing that an elected representative body such as the Assembly would propose a bill that seeks to deprive a group of people employed by an organization in the State of Maryland of their own right to vote on an issue essential to their livelihood.

Now is the time to reject HB 116. I am sure the Appropriations Committee does not intend to inflict damage on this treasured cultural asset of the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore—but I believe that would be the effect of this unfortunate piece of legislation.

Joshua R. Perry
Vice President, Board of Trustees
The Walters Art Museum