



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 Chandra Wiggins, and I am the Work Adjustment Supervisor at Clifton T Perkins Hospital Center. I have worked here for 29 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 work in the rehabilitation department as a work adjustment supervisor for 28 years. I am a proud employee of 29 years helping patients work towards a greater stability in a more independent life in the community. My responsibilities include placing referred patients in a Work adjustment program that provides free vocational opportunities and training throughout the hospital and performs task in a variety of settings including horticulture, dietary, plant management, library assistant, volunteer services, linen services, gym assistant and chart courier for the medical clinic. These services facilitate the development of work habits, values, attitudes, behaviors, and skills. The goal is to give each patient a transferable skill set for community work as well as instill confidence, responsibility and independence. The Work Adjustment staff and I with the patients 3 and 1/2 to 5 hours each work day. Although patients are stable when placed in the work program, there have been times when staff have needed to summon security to prevent a violent behavior incident from escalating or had to assess that a patient's unstable emotional state required a return to his residential unit.

The Work Adjustment department started with seven full-time employees and now there are three full-time employees which have changed the scope of our work program with less staff. The opportunities have decreased for the patients. At times work adjustment is unable to accommodate the need to supervise a program due to staff shortage and or the increase workload.

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.