

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 19th, 2023

Testimony in Favor of SB0009
State Personnel – Executive Branch Service Contracts – Policy, Certification, and
Notification

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and fellow members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 9, which would provide additional protections to our State Employees who remain a key pillar and the backbone of our State.

Current Maryland law dictates that the “policy of this State is to use State employees to perform all State functions in State operated facilities in preference to contracting with the private sector to perform those functions.” In order to truly provide this preference and prevent improper outsourcing there are protections in law, including that exclusive bargaining representatives receive notice before the solicitation of a service contract.

Despite this policy goal, it has come to my attention that the exclusive representatives rarely actually receive such notice. The preference outlined in law is only for State employees in State operated facilities and not for those outside of State operated facilities. Our State employees deserve to be protected from outsourcing regardless of if they work in a State operated facility or outside of one.

You will also hear from my panel about more specific instances of undue privatization and attempts to privatize services in the State to the detriment of Marylanders and our hard-working State employees.

To address these challenges, this legislation:

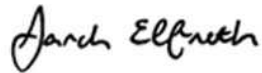
1. Ensures that service contracts both within State-operated facilities and outside of State-operated facilities are treated equally. (Page 4 Lines 1-2 and 9-10)
2. Ensures that the notice to exclusive representatives of the affected employees is actually provided by requiring proof of such notice to the Board of Public Works (BPW) before its approval. (Page 4 Lines 22-23)

3. Requires that certified contracts received by the BPW also be sent to the exclusive representatives of the affected employees. (Page 4 Lines 24-27)

I am also offering one clarifying amendment that ensures that notice is provided to **all** exclusive representatives, as sometimes there are more than one group of bargaining representatives in a service contract.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 9 to further protect our State employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Elfreth