

Testimony for the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Monday, February 20th, 2023

**SB 491 – Charles County Board of Education - School Bus Contractor Employees -
Negotiations**

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and committee members,

My name is Torrie Smith. I drive bus 130 and I support bill SB0491. I've worked for my contractor for over 5 years. I voted to have ATU, Local 689 represent & negotiate my wages, benefits & working conditions and they should have the opportunity to do so. The compensation we receive is not enough to live and raise a family in the county in which we work. As essential workers, and I say essential because without school bus drivers & attendants Charles County public schools would not be able to function efficiently, we should be offered the same pay and benefits as county employees.

Torrie Smith