

Written Testimony Submitted for the Senate Finance Committee
Testimony of Terron Trader, member, AFSCME Maryland
SB 192 – AN ACT concerning State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Supervisory
Employees
February 1st, 2024

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Terron Trader, and I am a Correctional Lieutenant with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. I am now in my 23rd year working for the state of Maryland, a career I am proud of. As Supervisors, we face unique challenges in our work, and unique challenges to our professions. Health issues, lack of training, forced overtime, and low retention have eroded the confidence I once had that the state of Maryland offered a promising career. The security and strength that come with our jobs is fundamentally tied to the people we are able to attract. We have a state that works well because we have employees that work well together. As it has become more challenging to keep great workers here, it has become more challenging to make a state that works.

We are not asking for special treatment or extra benefits. We just want the same rights afforded to the employees we supervise. We want a voice in decisions, a seat at the table, and a workplace that shows us the respect we deserve. We can accomplish these things through collective bargaining, which you can ensure we get. I know my work, and I know the people I work with. There is no one better to listen to about these issues than the people that live it day in and day out. Let's formalize that conversation. Let's make sure Maryland isn't a state that used to work well. Let's make sure we keep it a state that does.

Terron Trader
Correctional Lieutenant
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