



ENOCH PRATT
free LIBRARY

Office of the CEO

Senator Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 29, 2024

**RE: Senate Bill 0591 Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining
Request: Favorable with Necessary Amendments**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Committee,

The Enoch Pratt Free Library supports the right of all library workers statewide to enter into collective bargaining agreements. We support SB591 in that it will guarantee that right. Additionally we request one crucial amendment.

I respectfully request an amendment to Senate Bill 591 Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers Empowerment Act):

We request that the Enoch Pratt Free Library be exempt from this bill.

We have been involved in good-faith bargaining for nearly a year and are coming closer to an agreement. However, we cannot project if we will have our contract finalized by 7/1/2024. Please allow us to continue our negotiations that are well underway. We would like to finalize our contract as soon as possible in order to prevent continued use of public dollars to support the process, and so we can begin our work under the contract that our Union, the employees, management and the Boards agree will work the best for us. Prolonging the process is detrimental to all parties.

I also ask that this same amendment be approved for the Howard County Library System, which is also in the midst of negotiations.

I urge your support of this proposed amendment to SB0591 to ensure that this bill is supportive of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and all the highly esteemed libraries and dedicated library workers in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Heidi Daniel
President & CEO
Enoch Pratt Free Library