

SUPPORT
Declaration of Rights – Right to Organize
House Bill 37

House Appropriations Committee
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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 37, which would establish the right to organize in the Maryland constitution. If passed, this question would then go to the voters in the next election.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents over 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Maryland has a history of collective bargaining and continues to build on those rights. Maryland educators have had the right to bargain collectively since 1968, one of the country's oldest laws permitting educator negotiations. But there was work to do- the law left out support staff on the Eastern Shore. They did not win that right until 2002. In 2010, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Fairness in Negotiations Act which created the Maryland Public School Labor Relations Board. Then the law was updated again in 2023 when the General Assembly passed the Public Employees Relations Act to create a combined public employee labor relations board. Each change to the statute increased employee and union rights in negotiations. Enshrining the right to organize in the Maryland constitution is the next step in protecting workers' rights.

MSEA urges a favorable report on House Bill 37.