

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By David Van Horn, Associate Professor
HB0661
State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty
March 4, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. David Van Horn and I am a tenured professor in the Department of Computer Science and the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS), where I have worked for 10 years. I call on this committee to issue a favorable report to this Bill. The state already grants the right of collective bargaining towards nearly every other state employee, as well as the faculty at our community colleges and the non-academic workforce at our four-year institutions. It is clear that this right should be extended to all higher ed workers in Maryland.

I am writing to offer my strongest support for this bill. Strong unions will lead to strong classrooms and the best possible environment for the teaching and research at the core of UMD and other state university's mission.

Members of the Committee, this state has for decades viewed collective bargaining between state employees and management as the best way to promote democracy in our workplaces and public institutions. The right to collective bargaining has long been recognized as not only a fundamental human right, but also as the best method of ensuring that employee voices play a vital role in constructing conditions that govern our workplaces. It is a right granted to many other public higher ed institutions in the nation, and indeed to many private, prestigious institutions in our own state. The reasons to exempt four-year public higher education institutions from this path is absurd, illogical, and anti-democratic. I respectfully, but strongly, call for a favorable report to this Bill.

Sincerely,

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This testimony has been submitted on behalf of this individual by the United Academics of Maryland.