



Testimony – HB 1369 – Minimum Wage for Education Support Professionals
FAVORABLE
House Appropriations Committee
March 5, 2025
Executive Director, SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chair Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Travis Simon, and I am the Executive Director of SEIU Local 500.

We represent:

1. K12 Support staff at MCPS
2. Family Child Care Providers
3. Faculty, staff, and graduate workers at institutions of higher education
4. Non-profit workers
5. And many many more

I am proud to stand in support of legislation to establish a \$25 minimum wage for K-12 public education support staff in Maryland.

Our public schools do not function without the dedicated support staff who transport our students safely, keep our schools clean and secure, provide nutritious meals, and assist educators in the classroom.

Yet, too many of these essential workers are struggling to make ends meet on wages that fail to reflect the value of their work. This bill is not just about fair pay—it is about strengthening our schools and communities.

Here's why a \$25 minimum wage for support staff is good policy:

1. **Attracting and Retaining Skilled Workers** – Maryland's schools are facing severe shortages of bus drivers, paraprofessionals, custodians, and other critical staff. Raising wages will help attract and retain experienced workers, ensuring students have the support they need to thrive.
2. **Economic Stability for Working Families** – Many school support staff currently work multiple jobs just to afford basic necessities. A \$25 minimum wage ensures these workers can support themselves and their families, reducing turnover and improving overall job performance.
3. **Stronger Schools, Stronger Communities** – Fair wages lead to more stable staffing, which directly benefits students. When support staff can afford to stay in their roles, students build meaningful relationships with trusted adults, leading to safer and more effective learning environments.

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Pia Morrison, President



Investing in our support staff is investing in the future of Maryland's public education system. For these reasons and more we strongly urge a favorable report on HB 1369.

Thank you.

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