



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
The Honorable Mark Chang, Vice Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Maryland General Assembly
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Committee for Montgomery Supports HB 661 - State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty

Dear Chair Delegate Barnes, Vice Chair Delegate Chang, and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Committee for Montgomery, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 661. The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) is a cross-section of Montgomery County business, labor, education, civic, arts, and community-based organizations. Our mission is to advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State.

This important bill will establish separate bargaining units for faculty and contingent, contractual, or temporary faculty, enabling a more equitable and comprehensive approach to labor representation in Maryland's academic institutions.

As the educational landscape continues to evolve, it is crucial that all faculty members—whether tenured, tenure-track, or contingent—are provided with the ability to negotiate terms that affect their livelihoods, job security, and professional development. HB 661 addresses this by ensuring that contingent faculty, who often face precarious employment conditions, are afforded the same collective bargaining rights as their full-time counterparts. This will help create more stable, equitable working conditions for all educators, benefiting not only faculty members but also the students they serve.

The creation of distinct bargaining units for different categories of faculty will further allow for more tailored and effective representation, taking into account the unique challenges faced by various groups within the academic workforce. By enhancing these rights, the bill contributes to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment at Maryland's institutions of higher education.

We believe that HB 661 will have a significant positive impact on the educational quality and stability within the State of Maryland. For these reasons, the Committee for Montgomery fully supports this bill and encourages the House Appropriations Committee to pass HB 661 in a timely manner.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We are confident that the passage of this bill will ensure that Maryland's higher education system remains a model for fairness, equity, and academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Victoria Leonard,
2024/25 Committee for Montgomery Chair