



Testimony - SB 892, Education – Minimum Wage for Education Support Professionals  
Favorable

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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Christopher C. Cano, MPA

Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 23,000 workers across Maryland including over 10,000 educational support professionals in our Montgomery County Public Schools. We wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill 892, which seeks to establish a minimum wage of \$25 per hour for education support professionals (ESPs) across Maryland. As the backbone of our public school system, ESPs—including paraeducators, custodians, administrative staff, bus drivers, and food service workers—play an essential role in ensuring that students receive a high-quality education in a safe, clean, and well-functioning environment.

Currently, many of these dedicated professionals struggle to make ends meet due to low wages that fail to reflect the vital contributions they make to our schools. By setting a minimum wage of \$25 per hour, this bill acknowledges the invaluable role of ESPs and ensures they receive fair compensation for their hard work. Furthermore, the provision tying future wage increases to inflation guarantees that their earnings keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Investing in our education workforce is an investment in our students. Providing fair wages will help attract and retain skilled professionals, reduce turnover, and create more stability within our schools—ultimately benefiting Maryland’s children. No education system can thrive without the support of the individuals who keep our schools running smoothly every day.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 892 and take this critical step toward recognizing and supporting the hardworking professionals who make Maryland's schools successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA  
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs  
SEIU Local 500