



Kenya Campbell
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 813
Howard Community College – Board of Trustees, Meetings, and Contracts – Alterations
Ho.Co, 1-25
March 5, 2025
Favorable with Amendments**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. AFT-Maryland is the certified bargaining representative for the full-time faculty at eight community colleges throughout the state, including the full-time faculty at Howard Community College. On their behalf, we call on this committee to issue a favorable report to SB 813, with the amendments proposed by the Howard County Senate Delegation.

The full-time faculty at Howard Community College were one of the first colleges in the state to unionize under the new collective bargaining law passed by this legislature in 2021. Despite having been certified nearly two years ago, the pace of negotiations has been slow, with the administrative team not offering any counter-proposals to the 30 proposals already being offered by the union negotiating team. Furthermore, a number of union leaders at the college have been targeted for retaliation for their protected union activities. A number of members of the schools Board of Trustees have recently quit, and replacements have yet to be named, making it that more difficult for the board to do its required work of governing the college.

This bill would help bring an extra level of needed transparency to the college by requiring proceedings of these board meetings be posted within 48 hours, as well as assure a timely appointment of replacement members to the college's board. Finally, this legislation would require Howard County Senators to receive periodic status updates on the status of contract negotiations, making sure the two sides are indeed engaging each other in good faith bargaining, and helping bring the two sides together in an agreement so as to settle much of the tension that currently exists at the school.

Again, for these reasons, we call on the committee to issue a favorable-with-amendments report for SB 813. Thank you.