

Testimony by Kim Modeski BCPL Circulation Manager

To the Senate Finance committee. My name is Kim Modeski and I am a Circulation Manager at Baltimore County Public Library. I would like to thank you for considering this legislation.

In 2022 non-supervisory staff at Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) were successful in forming a union to collectively bargain on their behalf. However, this did not include manager/supervisor units to be formed in Baltimore. Last year, the Library Workers Empowerment Act did not extend collective bargaining rights to Baltimore management/supervisors because BCPL was an “unorganized” library system. This bill, SB914, will provide the rights that other counties in Maryland already possess. This bill will not alter the unionizing and collective bargaining processes established in BCPL’s 2021 law. Essentially, this bill enables rights for managers/supervisors and staff but will not disrupt a process that has proven to work. I feel that providing managers/supervisors inclusion in this unit is essential to protect our right to collectively bargain.

I would ask that my colleagues and I receive the opportunity to unionize to protect our working conditions and assist in negotiating wages. Communication and transparency have long been overlooked by administration but are a crucial element for our success. I ask that you consider allowing managers/supervisors the ability to join our nonsupervisory staff in ensuring a safe and fair environment in which to work.

Thank you for a favorable report on SB914.