



Testimony - SB 914, Baltimore County Public Library – Collective Bargaining –
Supervisory Employees
Favorable
Senate Finance Committee
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Honorable Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

SEIU Local 500, as one of Maryland's largest public sector unions representing over 23,000 workers, expresses our strong support for Senate Bill 914 which provides supervisory employees at Baltimore County Public Libraries collective bargaining rights. This legislation is a necessary step toward ensuring fairness, workplace democracy, and equitable treatment for dedicated library professionals who play a crucial role in serving our communities.

Public libraries are essential institutions that provide access to knowledge, resources, and opportunities for lifelong learning. Supervisory employees within BCPL are integral to this mission, as they not only manage daily operations but also mentor staff, implement policies, and contribute to the overall success of library services. Despite their vital responsibilities, these employees currently lack the ability to collectively negotiate for better working conditions, fair compensation, and job security. SB 914 corrects this imbalance by allowing them to form and join bargaining units, ensuring their voices are heard in workplace decisions.

Collective bargaining rights foster a collaborative and transparent work environment, leading to improved morale and efficiency. Across Maryland and the nation, institutions that allow supervisory employees to unionize have seen benefits such as reduced turnover, stronger professional development opportunities, and more effective service delivery. By passing SB 914, Maryland would affirm its commitment to equitable labor practices and recognize the valuable contributions of library supervisors.

This bill does not seek to disrupt existing bargaining units or agreements but rather to expand rights in a fair and measured way. The establishment of a separate bargaining unit for supervisory employees, as outlined in the legislation, ensures a balanced approach that respects both management and labor interests.

We urge the committee to support SB 914 and advance the rights of Baltimore County Public Library supervisory employees. Their dedication to public service deserves the protections and benefits that collective bargaining provides. We thank Senator Hettleman for her leadership on this issue and ask you to provide a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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