Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
SB0006
State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Nontenure Track Faculty
February 05, 2026
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee.

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill, Collective Bargaining for Nontenure Track Faculty. This bill would grant meaningful collective bargaining rights to nontenure-track faculty at Maryland's public higher education institutions, such as Towson University, where I've been an adjunct professor for 26 years in the Department of Dance.

Nontenure-track faculty perform essential academic work that enrich our campuses and elevates student success.

During these 26 years I have not had any job stability, employed on a semester-by-semester contracts. I have consistently asked for full time work. It was offered once but was it was rescinded before that semester even started.

Today, I am paid about $5,200 a class. This includes preparation, teaching, grading, counseling, and mentoring. There is much work I do that extends beyond our studio classrooms. and I would like to be ensured we have more support around all the work we do in addition to teaching. A unified voice in negotiating fair wages, working conditions, and professional standards will benefit adjuncts, students and the university. An adjuncts working conditions are our students' learning conditions. I call on the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Jayne Bernasconi
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This testimony has been submitted on behalf of this individual by the United Academics of Maryland (UAM).