



Bill Title: SB6 State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Nontenure Track Faculty

Position: **SUPPORT (FAV)**

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Erica Puentes, Legislative Coordinator on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 3, 2026

Dear Chair Beidle, Vicechair Hayes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Erica Puentes, and I am a University of Maryland alumna and the Legislative Coordinator for Progressive Maryland. Progressive Maryland is a statewide member led advocacy organization promoting racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. Progressive Maryland has over 120,000 individual members, supporters, and organizational affiliates statewide and work alongside hundreds of community, religious, labor and other grassroots allies to educate the public and build popular support for progressive victories. Our dedication to fairness and equity leads **Progressive Maryland to strongly support SB6 State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Nontenure Track Faculty.**

Maryland's public universities provide opportunities to Maryland's vulnerable and disenfranchised populations, including Black, brown and immigrant communities and first-generation students. They provide civic education and open job opportunities for our young people. In an age of rampant disinformation, they make young Marylanders into critical thinking. They promote the arts and provide healthcare. They do research that literally saves and improves living conditions for all. Our universities are motors of the Maryland economy. And Maryland's dedicated professors work long hours to be provide outstanding education and Researchers.

Yet professors face deteriorating working conditions and precarity. Many of our non-tenure-track professors have worked decades without health insurance or contributions to retirement. At the end of each semester, they wonder if they will have employment the following year. They prepare for classes only to have them cancelled at the last minute. They write million-dollar grants but wonder if the federal government will continue funding the research they have been conducting. These worries—and more—make them vulnerable. They also make them reticent to research or teach controversial issues or topics that are out of favor. This is bad for Maryland and its students, but the consequences go far beyond. Moreover, vulnerable and fearful faculty members are reluctant to speak up about workplace issues that affect the quality of instruction and research.

Our faculty deserve a democratic workplace so they can fight to protect democratic governance in our communities, our state and our country. Collective bargaining will allow faculty to have a collective voice and to work with our university administrators for the good of our students and our communities. It will allow them to speak out against discrimination in the workplace when

they see it and advocate for greater transparency. **For these reasons, Progressive Maryland fully supports SB 6 and urge you to issue a favorable vote.**