

Good afternoon, Chairperson Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee.

I'm Jayne Bernasconi. For the past 26 years I have been an adjunct professor of Dance at Towson University. 26 years of working on semester – by -semester contracts. 26 years of educating too many students to count. Many of which I remain in contact with. I'm also an accomplished international author and have written 3 books in my specialized style of dance.

I am in strong support of House Bill 106, granting meaningful collective bargaining rights to nontenure-track faculty at Maryland's public higher education institutions.

Nontenure-track faculty perform essential academic work that enrich our campuses and elevates student success. My students go on to secure professional work in companies and in education institutions. Sometimes I hire my own students and alum to perform in my company, paying them from grants that I've been awarded. Our universities could not operate without us. This includes preparation, teaching, grading, counseling, and mentoring, attending faculty meetings and retreats. There is so much work that I do that extends beyond our studio classrooms.

Today, after 26 years, for all this work, I am paid \$5,200 a course, and can only teach 3 courses a semester, so my salary is about 30K a year before taxes.

As I mentioned, I am contracted semester-by-semester. I have consistently asked for full time work and apply whenever positions become available. I was even offered a full time position in 2008 but it was rescinded before that semester started due to the 2008 collapse of the economy.

A unified voice in negotiating fair wages, working conditions, and professional standards will benefit adjuncts and students and the university. Adjuncts working conditions are our students' learning conditions.

Thank you.

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