

Monday, March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am also a parent of a Baltimore City Schools student, a proud Baltimore city resident, homeowner, and commuter, and a supporter of educators. I am submitting testimony as a member of Sanctuary Maryland. I am testifying in **support of HB1492: Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike.**

Maryland's public employees are the backbone of our communities. They teach our children, repair our roads, drive our buses, and so much more. Like anyone trying to do their job safely and well, public employees need to have the appropriate supplies, staffing, working conditions and pay to get their jobs done right. Without these critical investments, vacancies in these crucial roles rise, public services crumble, and our communities suffer the consequences.

Around the country, public workers are defending their communities from disinvestment, yet in Maryland the public sector does not have a legal right to strike. Corporations and political leadership have worked together not only to decimate our private sector unions, but also weaken the public sector unions that remain. Without this basic right, our public workers—most of whom are women and people of color—cannot effectively fight to maintain the services that we all rely upon and deserve.

I strongly support the removal of no-strike clauses from the Maryland State Code and from union contracts. HB 1492 would accomplish that by repealing the ban on public school employee and library workers' right to strike and protecting workers from any retaliation against public sector workers in the event of a strike before the ban is repealed.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **support HB1492: Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Katherine Blaha
Baltimore, MD 21209