

Monday, March 9, 2026

Martha Holmes  
271 Cape Saint John Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am a resident of Annapolis / Anne Arundel County and District 30A, a constituent of delegates Dana Jones and Dylan Behler. I am also the parent of a teenager at Annapolis High School and a frequent public library patron. 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.**

I believe that public employees are the backbone of our community, especially public school and public library workers. My son is a junior at Annapolis High School and is thriving in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. In addition to learning essential knowledge, many of his teachers have made a lasting impression on him. His teachers are confidantes, mentors and career advisors. Beyond teachers, we rely on many staff to ensure he gets to school, is safe while there and support his academic choices. I visit the library weekly for new books for myself and my family, and we use the DVDs and streaming services for movie night. The library also connects me to the community, being a place I can donate food and clothing as well as drop off my election ballot.

I rely on these public workers regularly. Like anyone trying to do their job safely and well, public employees need to have the appropriate supplies, staffing, working conditions, and pay to do their jobs well. Without these critical investments, vacancies in these crucial roles rise, public services crumble, and our communities – meaning my family and I – 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 to weaken the public sector unions that remain. Without this basic right to strike, 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. HB1492 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 HBI 492: Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Martha Holmes, PhD  
Annapolis, MD, 21401