



March 11, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 1492 – Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike**

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members:

Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America (GBDSA) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1492 – Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike. This bill would repeal the ban on striking for public school teachers and public librarians, ending years of unconstitutional restrictions on the rights of our state's educators. First, we would like to thank Delegate Ebersole for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Chair and other members of the committee who have signed on as cosponsors. It is great to see that this newly formed committee is committed to advancing labor rights from the start.

We are writing to ask the committee both to advance HB1492, and to stress its urgency and necessity. In 2025 school districts across the state did not receive the funding they needed to provide safe and quality education to our students. In my time as a public school teacher I have watched class sizes increase as funding decreases. Meanwhile us educators are denied by state law the only tool available to the working class and promised to us by the 1st amendment, the right to peacefully protest by going on strike!

Our schools are not just underfunded, they are unsafe for educators and students alike. Despite years of effort, our teachers and students continue to be exposed to [lead ridden water](#), [rodents in classrooms](#), and [mold in walls](#). Over the last five years there have been 397 school shootings, meanwhile a lack of security results in administrators having to email staff security footage to see if there are intruders. Currently there is nothing teachers and librarians can do except ask politely while we wait and hope in vain for change that never comes. Opponents of this bill will cynically say that teachers and librarians will strike only to look out for themselves and their salaries, but that is patently false. Teachers and librarians unions [routinely bargain over safety](#) and education issues. In fact, it is the opponents of this bill that support the ban on negotiating class sizes, a constant issue for teachers that has a dramatic impact on student

outcomes. As an organization that represents hundreds of public workers, GBDSA has collected thousands of signatures supporting the right to strike, showing the will of Marylanders is clearly on the side of educators. It is shameful that Maryland is one of the 37 states in this country banning all public workers from going on strike while these unacceptable working conditions exist right here in our own backyard.

Voting yes to advance HB1492 will not show that Maryland takes the rights of its worker people seriously, it will make material improvements on the lives of both our teacher and our students, and empower our public workers to fight for themselves, rather than relying on a system that continues to fail them. For these reasons, GBDSA supports HB 1492, and requests a favorable report by the committee. If you have any questions please reach out to [baltimoredsa@gbdsa.org](mailto:baltimoredsa@gbdsa.org).

In Solidarity,  
Adam Reddan  
GBDSA Right to Strike Working Group