



## MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

*Affiliated with the National AFL-CIO*

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### **HB 473 - Education - Collective Bargaining - Certified Employees - Class Size**

**February 17, 2026**

**House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards**

**President**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 473. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 473 makes a simple correction to Maryland law by removing the prohibition on negotiating class size. In doing so, it restores collective bargaining that directly impacts teaching conditions, learning conditions, and the stability of our public schools.

Maryland already allows bargaining over salaries, hours, assignments, and other working conditions. HB 473 acknowledges that class size has a significant impact on teaching outcomes and the professionals who educate our children. Like other working conditions, it should be subject to good-faith negotiation between educators and school systems.

This bargaining power gives educators a voice in shaping the conditions that make effective teaching possible. HB 473 is an important step toward strengthening Maryland's public schools. It aligns our bargaining law with the realities of the classroom and ensures that decisions about class size are made collaboratively rather than unilaterally.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 473.



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