

From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

March 11, 2026

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

The Honorable Kenneth Kerr
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *House Bill 1492 - Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike*.

I am proud to stand with Maryland's educators and professional staff members who dedicate their lives to supporting our students and strengthening our communities. As the proud son of a Maryland public school teacher, I grew up seeing firsthand the dedication, patience, and care that educators bring to their work every day. I also attended public schools myself, and I continue to be inspired by the work of the teachers, librarians, and school staff who shape the next generation of Marylanders.

I have always supported efforts to improve compensation and working conditions for teachers and school staff across Maryland. We should all agree that our educators deserve respect, fair pay, and strong benefits that reflect the critical role they play in our communities.

Collective bargaining works best when both sides have meaningful leverage and a fair process to reach agreements. Providing educators with the same fundamental labor rights as many other workers ensures that negotiations are conducted on an equal footing. Strikes are always a last resort, something workers turn to only when good-faith negotiations fail, but the right to rally and advocate for fair treatment is one our teachers should not be denied.

When educators can effectively advocate for fair wages, manageable class sizes, and the resources they need to do their jobs, students ultimately benefit as well. Strong schools depend on strong educators.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support *House Bill 1492t*.

Respectfully,



David Trone
Former Member of Congress