



IAM Local 4538  
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March 11, 2026

Good afternoon,

My name is Anita Bass and I am the proud Union President of IAM Local 4538 which represents Baltimore County Public Library Workers and Towson Apple store workers. Thank you Chair Wells and the GLE committee for listening to my testimony. Thank you to Delegate Ebersole for sponsoring this important piece of legislation and the 20 cosponsors in which some of them are on this committee. I'm here today to speak about why public library workers and public school teachers deserve the right to strike and ask for your support for HB1492.

The right to strike is not about wanting to walk off the job. It's about fairness. It's about balance. It's about making sure that when workers sit down at the bargaining table, their voices matter. The right to strike ensures that both sides come to the table in good faith, and ready to listen.

Public Library workers are dedicated public servants. They show up every day for their communities. They help families, job seekers, students, seniors. They provide services that keep our communities informed, and supported. But dedication should not mean silence. It should not mean accepting unsafe conditions, chronic understaffing, or wages that don't reflect their skills. The right to strike is not the first step in a dispute — it is the last resort. It is what workers rely on when every other effort to resolve an issue has failed. When workers have the right to strike, strikes are often avoided, because the existence of that right encourages real, serious negotiations before things ever reach that point. Workers are not asking for special treatment. They are asking for equality.

They are asking for the same fundamental labor rights that many other workers already have. The ability to withhold labor is about dignity. It's about respect and it's about ensuring that the people who make our institutions run, have a real voice in their future. I encourage you to vote for a favorable report for House Bill 1492.

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