

Good afternoon. My name is Curtis Jackson, and I am speaking as a member of the Baltimore City Youth Council. In my role, I spend a lot of time listening to what young people in our community are experiencing in their schools.

Students often talk about crowded classrooms, not having enough counselors, and school libraries that need more resources. These challenges affect how students learn and how supported they feel every day.

Teachers and librarians see these same problems firsthand. However, in Maryland they are not allowed to strike. Without that option, educators do not always have the power to push for the changes that students truly need.

Repealing Maryland's no-strike law would give educators another tool to stand up for young people. When teachers and librarians advocate for better conditions, they are also advocating for smaller class sizes, more mental health support, stronger libraries, and better learning environments.

This issue is not just about workers' rights. It is about making sure students receive the support they deserve. When educators have a stronger voice, young people benefit both inside and outside of the classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.