

Dear House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am writing in support of [HB1492](#)
Collective Bargaining - Public Employees - Revocation of Certification and School and Library Employees' Right to Strike

The right to strike has historically been one of the most powerful tools available to working people seeking fair treatment. From the early coal, steel and textile strikes, the ability of workers to withhold their labor has driven nearly every major improvement in workplace standards—fair wages, safer conditions, reasonable hours, and dignity on the job. Strikes have never been undertaken lightly; they are a last resort when all other avenues fail.

HB1492 establishes that certificated and noncertificated public school employees, library system employees, and their representative organizations have the right to engage in a strike. It also repeals the authority of the Public Employee Relations Board to deny or revoke an employee organization's certification as the exclusive representative of public employees under certain circumstances.

HB1492 recognizes that public school and library employees—who educate our children, support our communities, and keep essential public institutions functioning—deserve the same fundamental labor rights that have long protected workers in other sectors. Allowing these employees to strike strengthens their ability to advocate for safe staffing levels, manageable workloads, and the resources necessary to serve Maryland families effectively. It also ensures that their voices carry real weight at the bargaining table, fostering more stable and equitable labor relations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1492.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Girdner

Member, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County