

HB 1492

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FAV

To. Government, Labor, and Election Committee of Maryland General Assembly

Hello,

I write this letter in support of HB 1492. all on the public and our elected leaders, at the local and state level, to support HB 1492, to repeal the ban on public school employee and library workers' right to strike, and also to oppose any retaliation against public sector workers in the event of a strike before that ban is repealed. Right to strike is a fundamental right guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and is a crucial bargaining tool for public sector employees who are already facing a multitude of difficulties thrown their way because of the worsening labor conditions.

Dorchy vs. Kansas has ruled that the right to strike is a fundamental right to laborers in the United States, guaranteed by the 14th amendment. The public sector workers, who are the irreplaceable parts of the fabric of our US society, must have access to their fundamental rights as well. Weakened labor protections across the nation is a threat to the wellness of this nation. Maryland has a unique chance to be on the right side of history.

Teachers in the Baltimore City Public School District have been advocating for betterment of working conditions. The Baltimore Teachers' Union has been bargaining with the district, advocating for safety of the teachers and students. Overcrowded classrooms, facilities with maintenance overdue, unsanitary conditions, water with dangerous levels of metal in our faucets where our students wash their hands to eat and drink. When public school teachers are allowed to advocate for better working conditions, the benefit will ripple through the entire school system, benefitting all stakeholders, including students and the families.

We, the undersigned, understand that public workers are our best defenders of the public good, and we proudly support our public sector workers in their right to strike in order to defend and improve the quality of life in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Please vote Yea for HB 1492 for all the Marylanders who count on the Maryland General Assembly during this trying time.