



Testimony - SB 646, Public School System Contracts - Prohibited Provisions
Favorable
House Ways & Means Committee
April 1, 2026
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Honorable Chairwoman Wilkins & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

The members of SEIU Local 500 support Senate Bill 646 as it addresses the growing and harmful trend of outsourcing and privatization in our public school systems. This legislation provides important safeguards to prevent public school systems from being forced into unfair or fiscally irresponsible contractual provisions. School systems should not be required to indemnify private vendors without appropriated funds, waive their right to proper venue in Maryland courts, agree to binding arbitration outside statutory frameworks, or accept automatic renewals that obligate future funding without legislative approval.

These protections are especially important as school systems increasingly contract for technology platforms, transportation services, food services, and other operational supports. Without guardrails, districts can be locked into agreements that undermine fiscal accountability and limit public oversight.

Senate Bill 646 takes an important step toward protecting taxpayer dollars, preserving local control, and ensuring school systems are not pressured into unfair contractual terms.

With the proposed amendments, this bill will both strengthen fiscal responsibility and safeguard workers' rights.

SEIU Local 500 respectfully urges a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.