



A Union of Professionals  
**AFT-Maryland**

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House Appropriations Committee  
HB 1230 – State Prescription Drug Benefits – Retirees  
March 10, 2020**

**SUPPORT**

Chair and members of the committee. On behalf of the 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Maryland (AFT-Maryland), and as the federation that represents the state employees in local unions AFT Healthcare-Maryland, MCEA and MPEC, we ask for a favorable report on HB 1230.

HB 1230 is a bill that allows the state to follow through on its promise to state employees, by reinstating the State Retiree Prescription Drug benefit to those who began work before July 2011.

It is patently unfair to change what amounts to deferred compensation once workers have completed their employment with the state. Our members bring important services to the residents of Maryland. In exchange, they expect to be fairly compensated. When the time comes to retire, state workers expect their employer will follow-through on its commitment to a secure and dignified retirement including health care and prescription drug coverage.

Many of these state retirees live on a fixed income and cannot go back to work in order to afford the prescriptions they need. The move to discontinue the retiree prescription drug plan was seen as part of their compensation they received for their work. However, it is now used as a piggy bank to fund other state budget deficiencies.

It is for these reasons we ask for a favorable report on HB 1230. Thank you.

Marietta English  
President