



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008
md.aft.org

Marietta English
PRESIDENT

Kenya Campbell
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
HB 13 – Influence on Collective Bargaining – Prohibition on Use of Public Funds
and Income Tax Addition Modification
February 3, 2021**

SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh and members of the committee: On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-Maryland), which represents more than 20,000 state, county and municipal government workers across Maryland, we urge a favorable report on HB 13.

This bill would prohibit the state, county, or municipal government from using taxpayer funds to influence employees against their freedom and right to collective bargaining.

It would also prohibit private companies from getting tax breaks for expenses used to assist, promote, or deter collective bargaining.

President Joseph Biden, in a recent executive order, reaffirmed the position of the United States on collective bargaining rights by stating “It is also the policy of the United States to encourage union organizing and collective bargaining.”¹

The State of Maryland should abide by federal executive order and prohibit the state and local government from using taxpayer money to pressure or influence workers from exercising their rights as U.S. citizens.

Furthermore, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) is the federal statute that grants private sector employees the right to join a union and engage in collective bargaining. Employers should not be rewarded with tax incentives for expenses related to violated this right.

For these reasons, AFT-MD asks the committee for a favorable report on HB 13.

Marietta English
President

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/22/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce/>