



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
SB 439 – Public Institutions of Higher Education – Student Athletes
(Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
February 25, 2021
Support

AFSCME Council 3 urges you to give favorable support to SB 439.

AFSCME Council 3 represents 30,000 State and University employees in Maryland. Our members keep Maryland running – and they are also parents of students and alumni of many of our local colleges and universities.

As the union for university workers in Maryland, we have all too often seen institutions of higher education take their workforce for granted – at best - and at worst mistreat those very people who make their campuses function. Our members have been subject to this firsthand, especially during the pandemic as we were expected to perform our jobs per usual but often were not provided adequate PPE or health and safety protocols.

Our members have often felt like their schools treat them a disposable. Sadly we also see this play out with student athletes, young men and women who bring pride – and significant revenues – to higher education institutions. Colleges and universities need to treat all people with greater care and respect. SB 439 aims to ensure that athletes who are seriously hurt, injured or fall ill are not discarded. Furthermore, the bill creates important guidelines to protect student-athletes and makes the institution more responsible and for their necessary care. These are goals we are striving to also achieve for employees. It is high time that more protections are put in place for student-athletes to ensure these horrific outcomes never happen again.

AFSCME strongly supports SB 439 and we hope for a favorable report.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996