

March 4, 2021

Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining

SUPPORT

Dear members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Anya Parks and I am a current student at Anne Arundel Community College. I support bill SB746 - Education - Community Colleges - Collective Bargaining, and all the benefits that may come to the staff and faculty if it passes. I have read that schools with unions show improved student outcomes and overall better cost efficiency.

After quarantine, I was no longer able to be in the classroom, and I have truly missed the peer motivation and day to day routines of being around the campus. But all of my teachers did their absolute best to transition unexpectedly to the online platform. Knowing that most teachers are not getting the benefits of full-time faculty, I think it is wrong that they should still have to bear the burden and stress of moving to online teaching without being compensated adequately for it. Their lack of job security or ability to comfortably live between paychecks could affect the overall quality of our education. Not treating our educators with value can isolate them from the communities they serve and are fully dedicated to, which in the end only blunts the achievements that these faculty might be able to realize.

This last year has highlighted the need to protect faculty and college staff and give them a chance for a real seat at the table. Not doing so puts Maryland's community colleges at risk of falling behind on national standards simply because of apathy towards the wellbeing of their faculty. I ask you to vote yes on SB 746 and urge a favorable committee review.

Sincerely,

Anya Parks