

March 4, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 746-Education-Community Colleges-Collective Bargaining**

**SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Iesha Fields, and I am an adjunct faculty member at Prince George's Community College Largo Campus. I have served as an adjunct since 1997, and I am writing to show my support for bill SB746. I believe in workplace equality and the right to be represented by a union. Unions play a major role in the workforce, and community college workers should not be denied the basic right that others enjoy.

Like everyone else, I have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As an instructor, I have been required to change my teaching practices while trying to maintain a sense of normalcy at home with three school-aged children who are also working from home. One of the most difficult aspects of this pandemic is the feeling of uncertainty. As I get older, job security and the health and well-being of my family matter more than ever. Adjuncts don't enjoy the same benefits as their counterparts. There is no job security, health benefits, or shared governance. We are treated like day workers rather than professionals. While we are expected to perform the same duties as our colleagues, there is little equality in how we are treated. For example, in a few weeks, everyone will be expected to return to work in person, even though some of us will not have health insurance if we contract COVID-19 at work. A union is necessary in situations like this to ensure the safety and fair treatment of all workers.

This year is my 24th year as an adjunct. My enjoyment of the job is the reason I continue to do the important work I do. However, I do believe that we deserve a seat at the table. Community colleges play a key role in education, and we need your support. I am asking you to vote yes on SB 746 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

Respectfully,

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