

March 4, 2021

**Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining
SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Audrey Gaquin, and I am an Adjunct Instructor in English as a Second Language at Anne Arundel Community College, in Anne Arundel County. I support bill Senate Bill 746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining. It is time for adjunct instructors, who are the backbone of the learning process in community colleges, to have a voice. It is time for us to be allowed to decide for ourselves whether we wish to be represented by a union. At present, no one represents us. Over 200,000 other public sector workers in our state exercise this right. Community college employees, regardless of their status as part-time or full-time or staff, should have this right.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption for my colleagues and me, principally because it has made already existing problems worse, especially those involving contact with students, job security, health and safety, and participation in academic decision making. We know that collective bargaining would help us negotiate with the administration in these areas, most of which affect both ourselves and our students.

Maryland's Community Colleges are able to function and remain affordable because of adjunct instructors. We deserve a seat at the table. This is not asking for a favor. This is asking for our right as important contributors to a valued state institution. This legislation is needed to keep Maryland's Community Colleges running safely and building Maryland back better after this pandemic is over. **I ask you to vote yes on Senate Bill 746 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.**

In unity,

Audrey Gaquin