

March 4, 2021

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

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Charlotte Wulf, and I am an adjunct professor of English at a Maryland community college. I am writing to you because I enthusiastically support SB746-Education-Community Colleges-Collective Bargaining. I believe that I have a basic right to decide for myself whether I want to be represented by a union. Over 200,000 other public sector workers enjoy this fundamental right, so community college employees should not be denied this basic right.

Being able to bargain collectively would be an enormous help to my colleagues and me, because as things stand now, we have no voice in what happens to us at all. Because of only being able to teach a limited number of courses at one college, many adjuncts must teach at two, three, and even four different colleges. My community college limits my teaching load to a maximum of two courses per semester, so like many other adjuncts, this means I need to have other jobs. In fact, I have three other jobs—one other teaching job at a four-year college and two non-teaching jobs--and when all four salaries are combined, I make less money than a full-time teacher at a community college makes. What is especially frustrating is that I do not always know whether I will have two courses to teach or only one each semester at my community college. Also, I do not know what course(s) I am assigned to teach until a few days before the semester begins, which means that I have very little time to prepare to teach. This makes the beginning of each semester very stressful.

Being forced to have multiple jobs at various locations also means, in non-pandemic times, a great deal of time spent each day driving among those locations. This severely limits the amount of time an adjunct can spend talking with students outside of class. On top of that, many colleges do not provide a place where adjuncts can meet with students anyway. I remember one college I used to teach at where I would frequently see a really dedicated math adjunct meeting with his students in the cafeteria. Students deserve to be able to meet with their teachers when they need to do so, and they should be able to meet with their teachers in a quieter and less crowded place than a cafeteria.

I believe that 2021 is the year to pass this important bill. We adjunct teachers deserve a seat at the table so that our voices can be heard. If Maryland's community colleges are going to build back better after this pandemic is over, they need our input.

I ask you to vote yes on SB 746 and I strongly urge a favorable committee report.

In solidarity,

Charlotte Wulf
Adjunct Professor