



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear members of the General Assembly,

I'm writing to you as the Mayor of Baltimore City to express support for a bill to grant the right to collective bargaining to employees at Maryland's community colleges.

Baltimore City has had a positive experience collectively bargaining with teachers, police officers, firefighters and other public employees. In fact, we have found that even when budgets are tight, we have been able to resolve issues large and small, both economic and non-economic, in negotiating with organized employees. When workers have a seat at the table, organizations run smoother. In Baltimore City, certain nonfaculty employees, including sworn police officers, of Baltimore City Community College have the right to organize and collectively negotiate. The proposed bill would expand such rights more broadly across Maryland's community colleges.

Now that Maryland is looking for a way forward during and after COVID, we need to recognize the central role our community colleges will play. Already they provide an affordable education to young Marylanders, and they will no doubt be the source of professional retraining for workers who need a fresh start in the new economy. For so many Maryland workers, our community colleges will be the lifeline they need to recover after COVID. Making sure that instructors and staff can collectively bargain will be essential to the smooth operations of community colleges in this rapidly evolving environment. Educators and student-facing staff bring to the table the first-hand knowledge administrators need to make informed decisions about the future of their colleges during and beyond COVID.

In Maryland, we bargain collectively with our public employees, yet at our community colleges, we still have public employees who are denied their fundamental right to collectively bargain. Not only do we know as executives the value and efficiency that comes from collective bargaining, but we have seen even more clearly since COVID began that workers need to have a seat at the table.

From the point of view of each of us as mayor and county executives, the choice is evident. *All* members of the General Assembly should wholeheartedly champion this piece of legislation to support the students, faculty, and staff of our community colleges. It is the right thing to do, and can be done this session.

In service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore