

March 4, 2021

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

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

Hi my name is Dr. Renee Murrell, I am an adjunct professor at the Community College of Baltimore County and have taught Human Services for the last five years. I support the bill SB746 – Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining. I deserve the right to decide for myself in having collective representation by a union. It is a fundamental right that over 200,000 other public sector workers enjoy, and community college employees should not be denied this basic right.

COVID-19 has impacted the nature of my work in many ways. I have 40 years of experience working with victims of crimes for the FBI and in those years of experience the mental impact and lack of consistency that this pandemic has brought to my day to day is like none other. Having the right to collectively bargain through a union will help me and my colleagues have a better work environment and have a seat at the table where decisions are made that directly impact us and the lives of the individuals we teach. With a union I hope to gain job security, improved health benefits, and safety at my job for myself and those closest to me. My working conditions are my students learning conditions.

Collective bargaining rights are critical in the fight for basic protections and improved working conditions. I deserve better, I earned it. Decisions made for us without us won't cut it, adjuncts need a seat at the table. SB 746 is needed to keep Maryland's Community Colleges running safely and building Maryland back better after a crippling pandemic.

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

In solidarity,

Renee Murrell
Adjunct Professor
CCBC