

Written Testimony of

CAITLIN VOGTMAN

RE: Support of HB 1225

Submitted to the Maryland House Appropriations Committee on March 4, 2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Caitlin Vogtman and I am a supervisor at the Harford County Public Library. I am also a Maryland voter and overwhelmingly support House Bill 1225.

I have been in the system for over 10 years and have watched morale deteriorate in recent years. We have lost many wonderful, dedicated employees to other jobs. Many employees still stay though, because they love the library, and they want it to go back to the cheerful workplace it once was. These employees need to be treated better and get the recognition they deserve. Being a supervisor, I see more of what goes on in upper management and how poorly they handle things. I see the bullying and the disrespect of fellow employees. The extra work they put on staff because they won't fill the vacant positions. We used to be able to share our views, our ideas and be heard. Not anymore.

Yes, I have great benefits, plenty of time off and flexibility in my schedule. I am lucky to have a job, and I never forget that. But if you are not respected or appreciated it doesn't matter much. The frustrated, underappreciated people at Harford County Public Library aren't just my coworkers, they are my friends. They deserve better. Please help us make the library an even more wonderful place to work and visit!

Thank you