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Patrick Moran - President

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**Testimony**  
**SB 955 – Maryland School for the Deaf - Professional Personnel and Staff -  
Service Designation, Assignment, and Placement in a Collective Bargaining Unit**  
**Finance**  
**March 22, 2022**  
**Support**

AFSCME Council 3 supports SB 955. This bill would establish that professional personnel and staff employed by the Maryland School for the Deaf are in the professional and skilled services of the State Personnel Management System. It would require that the Secretary of Budget and Management assign the professional personnel and staff to the professional and skilled services of the State Personnel Management System to the appropriate bargaining units. It would also require that the professional personnel and staff of the school suffer no diminution of pay or benefits.

The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) is a public school that educates deaf and hard of hearing students from across the State at its two campuses in Frederick and Columbia.

Chapter 538 of the Laws of 2019 placed MSD teachers in the professional service in the State Personnel Management System. Then in 2021 Chapter 804 granted all MSD employees collective bargaining rights, while also establishing a separate collective bargaining unit for faculty.

These actions were incomplete, however, leaving somewhere between fifty to one-hundred and twenty MSD employees without appropriately assigned bargaining units. SB 955 clarifies that professional personnel and staff employed by MSD are in the professional and skilled services, and furthermore requires said employees to be assigned to their appropriate bargaining units no later than December 31, 2022.

AFSCME Council 3 supports this bill and requests a FAVORABLE report on SB 955.

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An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
800.492.1996

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