

**Written Testimony to the House Ways & Means Committee
HB 139 - State Personnel – Professional Service – Juvenile Services Education Teachers
and Correction Education Teachers
January 27, 2022**

SUPPORT

Chair Atterbeary and members of the committee. On behalf of the Maryland Professional Employees Council, AFT- Local 6197, representing over 5,000 professional employees for the state of Maryland, we ask for a favorable report on HB 139 – State Personnel – Professional Service – Juvenile Services Education Teachers and Correction Education Teachers.

Currently, there are teachers in state adult and juvenile corrections who are classified as special appointments. These teachers are not under a collective bargaining agreement and do not have the protections of similar state employees working in the same facilities and classifications. This means:

- They have no say in their union leadership
- They cannot participate in Labor / Management Committees
- They have no say on the union contract that establishes their pay and benefits and cannot vote on its ratification.

Teachers classified as special appointments deserve the same rights as all other state workers and union members and should be given full state employee status under professional service in the State Personnel Management System.

For these reasons, we urge you to move favorably on HB 139.

Jerry Smith
President