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BILL NO.: **HB 65**

TITLE: Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining

SPONSOR: Delegate S. Johnson

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 31, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 65 – Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining. This legislation grants organizing and collective bargaining rights to public library employees throughout the State of Maryland.

County Executive John Olszewski is an avid supporter of the empowerment of workers through collective bargaining, and recognizes that unions are the backbone of a strong middle class. Collective bargaining is a vital tool for working families to get a seat at the table and advocate for stronger working conditions with one voice. In 2021, the State successfully passed legislation allowing employees of the Baltimore County Public Library System to collectively bargain. Last year, BCPL employees ratified their first-ever contract with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. This legislation would provide a uniform system for library employees across the State to collectively bargain and form a union.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 65. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.