



**In support, with amendments, of HB65, an act concerning  
Education - Public Libraries - Collective Bargaining**

January 31, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Skip Auld. I serve as Chief Executive Officer of Anne Arundel County Public Library. I am here today in support of House Bill 65, with amendments. I am also a member of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators.

Over the past year, at the request of Chair Barnes, the Maryland library community has worked with a highly experienced labor law attorney to craft a collective bargaining bill. The idea was to develop a bill that would be acceptable to all library systems, rather than focusing on Harford County only as did last year's HB1225.

We did not know until the second week of January that Delegate Johnson was working on his own bill. We look forward to working cooperatively with him to amend HB65. If this cannot be accomplished during the session, we look forward to getting it done over the summer.

Our goal is to pass a bill that is fair to everyone, including the unions, the libraries, the communities we serve, and especially the thousands of library employees across the state. To be clear, we are not anti-union, in fact, my son is a dues-paying union member and many of us are from generations-long union families. We look forward to working closely with Delegate Johnson to get this bill right.

I personally support the bill, with amendments, despite HB65 having a fundamental misunderstanding of public libraries in Maryland. For example, it builds the legislation around the idea that the governing body is the County, when Maryland State law determined many decades ago (in the 1940s to be exact) that library boards of trustees are the governing bodies of library systems. Twenty-three (23) of the 24 library systems in Maryland have governing Boards of Trustees.

There are many other amendments that we will work together to hammer out. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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