

Written Testimony Submitted for the House Appropriations Committee
Testimony of Cynthia Jacobs
SB 591 –The Library Workers Empowerment Act
February 29th, 2024

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Cynthia Jacobs, and I am a Building Care Technician at the Linthicum Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Libraries. I am nervous for the security of my job and for the future of it as a sustainable position. With more outside contractors coming in, and no way to voice my feelings in any meaningful way, I fear that what was once a way to make a living in Anne Arundel County will be reduced to merely a part-time position that cannot sustain a person here.

I fear that If I was to speak up, to make it known that we as BCTs face unique threats and challenges that require unique solutions, at best I would not be heard. At worst, I fear that it would make me look ungrateful in the eyes of administration and management. I don't want to spend my time at work worrying about possible retaliation, and unable to raise or address the issues I see impacting myself, my coworkers, and the public. I want to continue to serve the libraries, but I want to do it in a way that I feel heard, respected, and encouraged. I want to do it with collective bargaining rights. Please pass SB 591, and give those rights not only to me, at AACPL, but to all library workers across the state. We serve a critical need, for all types of people. Now we need our critical needs met as well.

Cynthia Jacobs
Building Care Technician
Anne Arundel County Public Library System