

**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Area Code 301-967-4500

February 27, 2024

Senator Pamela Beidle  
Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Support – HB609/SB591 – Library Workers Empowerment Act**

Dear Chairwoman Beidle:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), **I write today in strong support of HB609/ SB591 Library Workers Empowerment Act.**

This legislation, which has bipartisan support, would simply offer a fair and consistent process for the thousands of unorganized public library workers in Maryland to utilize their right to form a union and collectively bargain if they wish. This does not guarantee library workers will form a union, but creates a law for these workers to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of association.

As you know, the state does not have a legal pathway for all public library workers to form a union. In the past, this this matter has been decided on a county-by-county basis, requiring the state legislature to repeatedly contemplate similar legislation. This process of county-by-county is both ineffective and inefficient. The time is now for a statewide approach for these public servants who want a voice in the workplace and a seat at the table in the decision-making process.

Public library workers should not be prohibited from pursuing collective bargaining rights simply because they work in a jurisdiction in which legislation has not passed.

The IAM, which is based in Upper Marlboro, MD, champions workers' rights, giving them a voice in the workplace and involvement in the decision-making process. We proudly represent over 400 employees of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) System.

Passing the Library Workers Empowerment Act ensures a path forward for unorganized public library workers to exercise these Constitutionally-protected rights.

**IAM fully supports HB609/SB591 – Library Workers Empowerment Act.**

Sincerely,

Hasan Solomon  
IAM National Political and Legislative Director