

**Written Testimony Submitted for the Senate Finance Committee**  
**Testimony of Davon Thompson**  
**SB 591 –The Library Workers Empowerment Act**  
**February 29th, 2024**

**SUPPORT**

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

My name is Davon Thompson, and I am a Building Care Technician at the Severna Park branch of Anne Arundel County Public Libraries. I have worked for AACPL for the last twenty years, and in that time I have watched Anne Arundel County go from an expensive place to live to an unsustainable one. We deserve fair representation, a livable wage, and all the rights afforded to other workers in Maryland.

We are frontline employees, and the work I do keeping the library facilities open is important. But we do not always feel important. We do not always feel respected. Much of the time, we don't even feel heard. Collective bargaining offers us the opportunity to engage directly with our counties and libraries on the issues that matter most to us. It is not a magic bullet, but it is a structural solution. This bill gives us the power to advocate for ourselves, and I hope you will support it. By doing so, know that you are supporting the libraries and library workers of this state. Please support SB591, the Library Workers Empowerment Act, and support library workers across Maryland.

Davon Thompson  
Building Care Technician  
Anne Arundel County Public Library