

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 591
Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers
Empowerment Act)

Senate Finance Committee
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Christian Gobel
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 591. Senate Bill 591 grants employees of public libraries the freedom to form, join, and participate in an employee organization and to engage in activities related to collective bargaining. MSEA supports all legislation that expands and enhances collective bargaining rights for public employees. MSEA stands in solidarity with all unions in the labor movement to build worker power and ensure that all workers have a voice in their workplace.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 591 is common sense legislation to promote workers' rights for employees of public libraries. The bill enables employees to engage in protected concerted activities for their mutual aid and protection, prohibits employers and employee organizations from engaging in certain unfair labor practices, establishes election procedures for the certification of exclusive representatives, and requires good faith bargaining between employers and certified exclusive representatives concerning wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

MSEA strongly believes that communities, government, the public, and workers benefit through the practice and procedure of collective bargaining. Enabling workers to have a voice in their workplace and working conditions enhances the



delivery of public services, creates a more stable and healthier workforce, and allows labor and management to address potential disputes in a responsible and efficient manner for the benefit of all. For these reasons, MSEA will always stand in solidarity with workers who seek the right to join unions and engage in collective bargaining.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 591.