

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Area Code 301-967-4500

OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 11, 2023

Dear Delegate:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), **I write to you today urging your support for Maryland H.B. 65, legislation that would enable Maryland's county public library workers to organize for collective bargaining rights.** The current state laws **do not** provide such a pathway for thousands in the state's workforce to exercise their constitutional right to join a union.

This proposed legislation, sponsored by Del. Steve Johnson (D-34A), would provide a consistent process for employees of unorganized public library systems in Maryland to form a union and to collectively bargain. Senator Nancy King (D-39) has agreed to co-sponsor the legislation in the Senate.

This legislation does not guarantee union organizing or require library system employees to form a union. H.B. 65 simply provides currently unorganized workers the necessary steps to show interest for a vote to have union representation, should they wish to do so.

As some may know, the IAM proudly represents a very diverse workforce that includes about 460 workers of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) system. The group, which organized with the IAM, ratified a first collective bargaining agreement in 2022. The workers only gained this right because the IAM was successful with getting state legislation passed in 2021 that enabled the BCPL workers the right to collectively bargain.

The plight of BCPL workers seeking a pathway to organize also gained the attention of President Joe Biden, who invited a BCPL members to speak before the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment.

Library workers in every county of Maryland should have the same ability to join a union if they choose. Library workers' ability to exercise their right to join a union in the state of Maryland should not be based on the county system in which they work, but instead on the universally-recognized right to freedom of association. This freedom should be available to any library worker who wishes to seek the option.

That said, I write to you today to request you support H.B. 65 and give unorganized county public library workers the option to collectively bargain.

If you have any questions, please contact IAM Legislative & Political Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President