



# AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | February 2024



MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

## AFSCME Members Get It Done!

This month, I was reminded of what our union can accomplish when we show up in full force.

In Howard County, library system employees won their union by a sweeping margin (151-19)! They organized together and got it done. Their union siblings in AFSCME Locals 1810, 3080, 3085, and 3888 (which represent those who work for Howard County) showed up to lend a hand to help make this happen, reaching out to their networks and encouraging library workers they knew to join our union.

The state legislature is also in session, and AFSCME members are taking action! With several collective bargaining bills on the line, AFSCME members are showing up to testify and speak with their legislators from all over the state. Our actions are working. Our bill to grant collective bargaining rights to supervisors across the state is moving ahead. And we couldn't have done this without all the members who took action, came to Annapolis, and spoke out.

When we show up in Annapolis or at a school board or council meeting, it sends a strong message that the people that do the work – at a school or college, in a city, in a county, or for the State – are in the house and are the experts on the work we do. Our presence makes it happen! We have six more weeks to go until the legislative session is over, so let's keep it going!

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



## Mid-Session Legislative Update

We're just over halfway through the 2024 Legislative Session, and in this time, AFSCME members have flooded Annapolis with our sea of green! From Monday evening Lobby Nights to testifying at budget and bill hearings and more, we've accomplished many important milestones so far.

Thank you to everyone who has come down to Annapolis to help us make this our most successful Legislative Session yet!

You can read our full Mid-Session (45-Day) Report on our website at [www.afscmemd.org](http://www.afscmemd.org).

### ACTION ALERT

## Help us pass the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2024!

If you are a state employee (including the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College, and Baltimore City Community College), take 2 minutes to send a message to your legislators to ask for their support of the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2024 (HB114/SB188)!

A template letter is provided but feel free to edit and add your own experiences and perspectives.

Send a letter:  
[bit.ly/binding-arb-letter](http://bit.ly/binding-arb-letter)



## Upcoming Events

Mon. Mar. 11: Union Night Rally

Mon. Mar. 18: Lobby Night

→ RSVP: [bit.ly/leg-interest-2024](http://bit.ly/leg-interest-2024)



## A New State Contract!

This month, we ratified our contract for 20,000 state employees in Units A, B, C, D, F, and H! Over 99% voted in favor of the new contract. Thanks to the hard work of the AFSCME Maryland bargaining team and everyone who voted, we have secured pay increases, additional benefits, and a number of workplace improvements in the agreement.

As a reminder, you can always find a digital version of your contract on our website at [www.afscmemd.org/contracts](http://www.afscmemd.org/contracts).



## State Supervisors: Vote Yes for AFSCME Maryland!

SB 192/HB 260 (which would grant collective bargaining rights to state supervisors in Unit S) has passed important milestones during this session! If you know any supervisors, tell them to sign the "Vote Yes" card to secure our union once this bill passes!



VOTE YES HERE!






## HoCo Library Workers United: Welcome to the AFSCME Family!

On Thursday, February 15, over 200 library workers at the Howard County Library System won their union election! Workers voted 151-19 in favor of forming a union to have a protected voice at work, advocate for fair wages and job protections, and address issues such as short staffing and unsafe work environments.

The members of HoCo Library Workers United are joining the AFSCME Maryland family, where we already represent workers at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and more! And in Anne Arundel County, library workers there are seeking to form a union with AFSCME.

The Library Workers Empowerment Act (HB 609/SB 591) is currently making its way through the legislative process. **Come out to our remaining Annapolis Lobby Nights** to help us get this bill passed so all library workers can enjoy the right to collectively bargain!

## AFSCME Members in Action

-  AFSCME members have been busy in Annapolis advocating for the rights and resources that we deserve! Check out our social media for photos, videos, and more from our Annapolis visits!
-  AFSCME Local 1899 members who work for Howard County Public Schools attended the school board meeting on February 26 to fight back against proposed layoffs to custodial positions, maintenance positions, and more. Our message was loud and clear: cutting essential positions is NOT the answer!
-  During the last week of February, AFSCME members visited worksites across the state as part of our February Week of Action! Together, we put our organizing skills into action, shared recent contract updates, and welcomed new members.



Pictured: Howard County school board meeting (left), members visiting worksites (right)