



MESSAGE FROM AFSCME MARYLAND PRES. PATRICK MORAN

## No More Excuses

May 1st is May Day, also known as International Workers' Day. On this day, we honor workers and labor movements around the world and the essential work we do that makes our communities possible.

It's deeply upsetting that this week, we find ourselves mourning the loss of two of our AFSCME bargaining unit members — Robert Dempsey and Dipakkumar Patel — who were both killed on the job in separate incidents in the span of just four days.

The loss of both men is simply unacceptable. Just last week, the Maryland Department of Transportation was touting National Work Zone Awareness Week. Our message is clear: there can be no more excuses and no more delays.

There are a number of reforms we are pushing for, and we are calling on state leaders to listen up and make changes. In times like these, our union power is essential. We will stop at nothing to ensure Brother Dempsey and Brother Patel did not die in vain.

- AFSCME Maryland Council 3 President Patrick Moran



Pictured: Photos from the 2026 Corrections and Public Safety Summit



## ACTION: Save Our Union in Salisbury!

Join members of AFSCME Local 1081 in urging the City of Salisbury to protect union rights for all city employees.

Take a second to send a letter to the Salisbury mayor and city council urging them to OPPOSE their Resolution to Repeal SC23.



Send a letter at [bit.ly/salisbury-letter](https://bit.ly/salisbury-letter) or scan the QR code.












## ACTION: Save Our Raises for University System of Maryland Employees!

The University System of Maryland (USM) is refusing to honor our union contract, denying both the 2.5% merit increase and the \$500 base pay raise in our union contract for more than 6,000 AFSCME members, even though the State of Maryland has fully funded these wage increases.



Send a letter to the USM Board of Regents at [bit.ly/usm-raises](https://bit.ly/usm-raises) or scan the QR code.

## AFSCME Members in Action

-  On April 30th, AFSCME Maryland leaders held a press conference urging immediate reforms after two State Highway Administration workers were killed on the job in the last week.
-  In April, members of AFSCME Local 1870 rallied with members of AFT-Maryland to call on Baltimore City Community College leadership to negotiate fairly with its employees.
-  On April 28th, AFSCME Maryland members gathered in Annapolis to witness Governor Moore sign the Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act (HB 604/SB 28).
-  AFSCME Local 227 member Lisa Thomas was recognized by DPSCS in their employee spotlight, recognizing Lisa's hard work as a maintenance supervisor in the western region.
-  AFSCME members in Wicomico County hosted a New Employee Orientation (NEO) for the Wicomico County Health Department to ensure that new hires were informed of their union contact.
-  In April, AFSCME Maryland presidents gathered at Bowie State University for our biannual Presidents Meeting and discussed how to continue strengthening our labor power across Maryland.
-  In April, the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board set cost limits on certain prescriptions, which will save the State millions and improve access to these medications for AFSCME members.
-  AFSCME Local 227 recently conducted a series of site visits across the Eastern Shore, connecting with members and ensuring they're equipped to confidently enforce their contract on the job.
-  AFSCME Local 6359 - Howard County Library Workers United (HCLWU) secured \$1.7 million in funding for HCLS to fully cover their collective bargaining agreement and retain essential on-call shelvers.

## Member Spotlight: Carly Towne

AFSCME Local 423 (Maryland Defenders Union) member Carly Towne is an Assistant Public Defender with the Felony Division in Baltimore County.

**“I was drawn to public defense because of the injustice and the power imbalance of the criminal justice system. Being able to use my privilege and the resources I have as an attorney to try and offset the power imbalance, no matter how slightly, is what keeps me motivated to do this work,”** says Carly.

During the pandemic, Carly and her coworkers in Maryland's Office of the Public Defender (OPD) began organizing a union to fight for better pay and working conditions across the state.

**“Without our union, we would be fractured into different offices and jurisdictions, forced to fight on our own,”** says Carly. **“As a union, we are all in the fight together, and we have a unifying force and voice to advocate for all of us and our clients.”**

During this year's legislative session, Carly testified during an OPD budget hearing on behalf of our union. Reflecting on the experience, Carly shared, **“As state employees, we are worth more than just line items on a budget. My goal was to shed light on the struggle and humanity of us all.”**

For Carly, the strength of our union comes from our people power. **“The only way we can create a more democratic workplace is by coming together and fighting for a common goal. When we organize and fight, we win!”**



*Pictured: AFSCME Local 423 member Carly Towne*