



## AFT MARYLAND

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Marietta English

*President*

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February, 22, 2010

The Honorable Thomas Hucker  
House Office Building  
Room 220  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Hucker:

On behalf of the more than 20,500 workers represented by the American Federation of Teachers—Maryland, and in solidarity with officials in Montgomery, Prince Georges, and Howard counties, I'd like to express our enthusiastic support for House Bill 881 (Senate Bill 225), "Libraries-Collective Bargaining."

Collective bargaining is a fundamental, core belief of our union. We accept as an article of faith that employees have a right to form unions and to negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions. More importantly, those counties that have had the experience of working with a union enthusiastically cite the benefits of having a union—a workers' advocate—as a viable partner in the workplace.

The presence of an independent advocate for library employees will be an asset, both for county employees and for the local administration. Collective bargaining promotes collaboration, fosters worker/management cooperation, and enhances employee morale. These, in turn, encourage productivity, promote workplace efficiency, and facilitate conflict resolution.

The result is a working relationship that is beneficial to workers, management, and residents.

Again, we strongly support your efforts to pass House Bill 881 (Senate Bill 225) and to grant library employees the right to collective bargaining.

Sincerely,

Marietta English

President

American Federation of Teachers—Maryland