

Susan W. Turnbull
16 Royal Dominion Court
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

January 27, 2010

Mr. Gino Renne, President
UFCW Local 1994, MCGEO
600 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 2000
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Dear President Renne:

It is my pleasure to write to you in support of the proposed legislation extending collective bargaining rights to library employees across Maryland. This is solid, moderate legislation that doesn't mandate union representation, but finally would allow library workers the right to choose a voice in their workplace.

There is a clear link between good union jobs and a strong middle class. Library workers, a workforce that is 85 percent female, have been systematically and routinely denied the rights that have been granted to other public employees.

In the last four decades, many of Maryland's public employees have gained the right to collectively bargain in their workplaces, starting with Maryland's teachers in the 1960s, followed by county and municipal employees in the 1970s and 80s. In the past decade, Maryland's state employees were granted collective bargaining rights. Over 200,000 public employees in Maryland now have a voice in their workplace.

Now it's time to address the overlooked library workers.

Today, library workers confront issues of security on the job, an ever-growing customer base, and they must be more educated than ever before. Yet they remain underpaid and routinely have their workplace needs overlooked. The current system should be changed.

Giving the library employees a choice for a voice through this legislation would help balance the scales.

Warm regards,

Susan W. Turnbull