



# AFSCME IN ACTION

Member Newsletter | February 2023



*Pictured: AFSCME members meeting with Chief of Staff Fagan Harris at various worksites across the state*

## Recap: Gov. Moore's Chief of Staff Meets with AFSCME Members

On Friday, February 17, Governor Moore's Chief of Staff Fagan Harris visited AFSCME members at 8 different workplaces to hear firsthand what nearly a decade of understaffing and high vacancy rates has done to our state services.

From caseworkers at the Department of Human Services to Correctional Officers at Jessup Correctional Institution to workers at the University of Maryland College Park, we spoke honestly about the workloads and safety issues we're facing, the resources that our state agencies and campuses need, and the investment and respect we expect to see from Governor Moore's new administration.

Thank you to all of the members who took time out of their day to join us for these meetings! As the experts in our work, there's no one better to fight for the resources we need for ourselves and the people we serve.

## Higher Education Week of Action: Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 3

With bargaining at many of our higher education campuses in full swing, join us for a Higher Education Week of Action as we advocate for the pay, benefits, and respect we deserve!

You can view the full schedule of events on our website. More details will be added throughout the week. Invite your coworkers (especially those who are not members yet)!

RSVP & see all the events: [bit.ly/higher-ed-week](https://bit.ly/higher-ed-week)



**HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK OF ACTION**

Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 3

See the events: [bit.ly/higher-ed-week](https://bit.ly/higher-ed-week)

AFSCME COUNCIL 3  
HIGHER EDUCATION





Pictured: AFSCME members at this year's Lobby Nights and budget hearings in Annapolis

## Sharing Our Stories in this Legislative Session

We're halfway through this year's legislative session, and we have shown up every week in Annapolis for Lobby Nights, budget and bill hearings, legislator meetings, and more.

Thank you to all of the AFSCME members who have participated this year! The legislative session is always an important opportunity for our elected officials to hear directly from us about the pay, resources, and improvements we need for our jobs.

**Be sure to visit our website to see our remaining Lobby Nights as well as our legislative priorities and a list of priority bills.**

See the upcoming Lobby Nights & our priority bills:



[bit.ly/2023-leg-session](https://bit.ly/2023-leg-session)

## Member Spotlight: Kyle Shanholtz

Before Kyle Shanholtz joined state service, he served as his union's steward in two different Communications Workers of America (CWA) locals while working at Verizon. After switching jobs and becoming an AFSCME member, he was a part of our union's state bargaining team to negotiate better pay and workplace protections.

Now, as a Correctional Officer Lieutenant at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, Kyle has become a voice of support for HB183/SB298, legislation that would finally give collective bargaining rights to supervisory and managerial employees in our state agencies and higher education campuses.

"Until supervisors can get a seat at the table, they will continue to feel disconnected and disengaged. This bill will finally bring many of our supervisors back into the conversation and is a step in the right direction towards reinvesting in our state agencies and the people who keep them running."

**When asked why he's continued to be involved in our union, he says, "I've stayed involved because I believe that if you want to make a difference and want change, you have to be willing to step up. Signing a union card is the first step you need to take to have a voice, collectively bargain, and make changes in your workplace."**



Pictured: Kyle Shanholtz, AFSCME Local 1772 member