

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2021

# AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

## RSVP For Ask The Doctor Vaccine Session TOMORROW

In light of the misinformation but urgent timeline about vaccination, our union will be hosting two "Ask the Doc - Covid Vaccine Presentation"

Our union urges management to facilitate access to vaccination for frontline workers by establishing worksite-based clinics at congregate care facilities and other large office complexes.

Join us and meet with Dr. Jacqueline Sheppard-Lewis M.D on Zoom for a virtual session.

RSVP here:

Thursday, February 11 (6-7 pm):  
[bit.ly/Feb11Vax](https://bit.ly/Feb11Vax)

Tuesday, February 16 (10–11 am):  
[bit.ly/Feb16Vax](https://bit.ly/Feb16Vax)

AFSCME COUNCIL 3 AND KAISER PERMANENTE



## ASK THE DOC COVID VACCINE INFO SESSION

Presented by Dr. Jacqueline Sheppard-Lewis M.D.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 (6-7 PM)  
RSVP: [bit.ly/Feb11Vax](https://bit.ly/Feb11Vax)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 (10–11 AM)  
RSVP: [bit.ly/Feb16Vax](https://bit.ly/Feb16Vax)

## RSVP For Telework Lobby Night on Monday February 15th

Many AFSMCE Council 3 members are teleworking for the first time. As a result our union is supporting legislation to strengthen the state's telework policy. Throughout the pandemic, our members have shown that we can still be productive while teleworking. The flexibility that telework offers is an important employee benefit that helps with retaining and recruiting staff which the state has had documented difficulty with.

The State of Maryland has already invested in the equipment. We don't want to go back to where it was before the pandemic where none of our members had access to teleworking. The reality is that there is a telework divide. Black and Brown workers have less access, so do lower-income workers. This is why it is urgent that we pass Telework Policy Reform this year!

Support HB 73 with amendments for meaningful telework policy reform. Learn more about this bill and the proposed amendments on our website.

RSVP for Lobby Night on Monday, February 15th, 9:30am-1pm:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcO-trz4oGNKHvxzgDDIX0Gs4Q\\_xM8IRa](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcO-trz4oGNKHvxzgDDIX0Gs4Q_xM8IRa)

# AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

## AFSMCE Council 3 Members Standing Up for Health and Safety

On Monday, February 1st over 60 members of AFSCME Council 3 participated in a Health and Safety Lobby Night to lobby for two important pieces of legislation: the Illness and Injury Prevention Program and the Maryland Essential Workers Protection Act. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of frontline and essential workers and the gaps in our health and safety laws in Maryland. Since last fall, AFSCME Council 3's Health and Safety Legislative Committee has been meeting weekly to support these pieces of legislation and prepare for this session.

Watch this video to hear these members explain these two important pieces of legislation:

<https://www.facebook.com/99079521422/videos/1539718886222755>

Learn more about the Injury and Illness Prevention Program and the Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act on our website!

This week, AFSCME 3 members continue to support the MEWPA legislation that would require safe worksites, additional leave, free testing and require a minimum hazard pay for essential workers. Members will be testifying at hearings in support of this legislation and are also sending letters to the Committees Voting on this legislation to VOTE YES.

## Higher Education Leaders Testify Alongside Former U.S. Secretary of Education John King in Support of Consolidated Bargaining

This legislation would require the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) to act on behalf of USM and its constituent institutions, rather than the institutions' presidents under current law, for the purposes of collective bargaining. Both the House and Senate versions of this bill had hearings this past week, with HB 486 being heard by the House Appropriations Committee, and SB 09 being heard by the Senate Finance Committee.

President Patrick Moran, AFSCME Higher Education leaders Relford Matthews from Local 1833 and Celina Sargusingh from Local 1072 were joined by former U.S. Education Secretary John King in providing strong testimony in support. House Bill 486 sponsor Delegate Jared Solomon led the questioning of the USM representatives who seemed unable to answer his questions about the fact that the USM continues to oversee every campus, set the policies and oversee all of the contracts that our union negotiates. In the Senate hearing Senate Bill sponsor Senator Ben Kramer asked the USM representatives a number of questions about how the USM functions when it comes to control over the collective bargaining process the individual universities and colleges. Just like in the House hearing, the USM staff were unable to answer any of the questions.

The USM has consistently shown whether, through bargaining in the legislature that they are in charge, they set the rules and the policies for the universities. As much as they have attempted to deny this, it was clear in the hearings that they had no logical reason to oppose the bill other than the power to divide our members and continue to keep people in unhealthy and unsafe conditions. To see the hearings and also hear the USM's opposition, go to the House and Senate videos on the General Assembly Website/