

FEBRUARY 25TH, 2021

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

AFSCME Members Joining Together to Fight for a Raise

Over 250 members of our union came together to get the latest information and take action to support the fight. Our plan is simple: urge legislators to include funding for our raise (like we have last year) and then publicly demand Governor Hogan spend it! AFSCME members are underpaid and overworked and have been working hard throughout the pandemic.

Don't forget to pass this information to your co-workers. Our strength comes from our membership showing up and putting pressure on important decisions makers. Send a letter to legislators today: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stand-up-for-a-raise-for-state-and-higher-education-employees-we-are-the-frontline>

Visit our website or check your email to find the link above! Join us and make sure you encourage others to send a letter- it's an easy way to contact all of the most important legislators at the same time Fight for a raise and send a letter now!

Update on Telework Legislation

On Monday, Feb 15, around 30 AFSCME members used the President's Day Holiday to lobby legislators on the Telework Bill HB 73/SB 710. They talked to legislators about the importance of having telework legislation that is inclusive and covers everyone. They also urged the legislators to adopt amendments to make sure that Higher Education employees are covered that Telework agreements be negotiated. We're happy to report that on Thursday, the personnel oversight subcommittee voted the Bill out and HB 73 is presently scheduled for a full vote in Appropriations this Friday. TTelework committee members are preparing for the hearing on SB 710 in Senate Finance on Thursday, February 25th at 1:00pm.

AFSCME IN THE NEWS: University of Maryland tells students to isolate over rise in COVID-19 cases | WUSA9

The university has had a sharp increase in coronavirus cases over the past week. It recorded 32 positive tests on Thursday, 22 on Friday and 16 on Saturday. Since Feb. 6, not including those three days, 10 had been the highest number of cases found on a single day. In a statement from the employees union that represents a portion of University of Maryland workers, AFSCME said it was "appalled at the news of yet another outbreak." The full statement reads, "We are again appalled at the news of yet another outbreak within the University System of Maryland (USM) at the University of Maryland, College Park. Our union has been demanding negotiations with the USM and UMCP about health and safety for almost a year, but they have refused. In order to preserve the wellbeing of the students, frontline staff, and the greater community we again call on them to negotiate immediately. Our calls for greater safety measures, procedures, and protocols have been ignored for too long and this is part of the reason we continue to have bad outcomes on campuses."

Read more: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/university-of-maryland-covid-19-students-told-to-isolate/65-226d80be-e02c-4118-ba8a-5daa9ab66b08>

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2021

AFSCME 3 NEWSLETTER

AFSCME 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/