



MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL

AFT, AFL-CIO Local 6197

A union of professionals
in service to the people
of Maryland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

STATEMENT FROM MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL PRESIDENT JERRY SMITH ON PROPOSED DELAY OF COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA) IMPLEMENTATION FOR STATE WORKERS

Baltimore, MD- Maryland State Professional Employees continue to serve the state exceptionally in meeting its safety and productivity requirements despite the staffing crisis. It is disheartening that after fair negotiations with the Governor, the Department of Legislative Services seek to take well-earned and anticipated wages from the women and men who serve the citizens of Maryland and make this state work.

While we recognize that the state has a responsibility to balance the budget, the long-standing practice to do so at the expense of its employees should not be an option. It is also important to clarify this is NOT a raise! It is a long overdue cost of living adjustment (COLA) that we have not received since 2015. A Missouri study found that Maryland ranks 29th in government pay in comparison to its cost of living. Our members are looking forward to their COLA to aid in steady rising expenses to care for their families.

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