

# Maryland Classified Employees Association, Inc.

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**Press Release** - January 21, 2010

Contact: **Vanessa DiDomenico, Director of Communications**

## MCEA is Only Union to Testify on Behalf of State Employees to House Bill 78

MCEA (the oldest and largest independent labor organization serving Maryland public state employees) was the only union to support and testify on behalf of state employees before the Judiciary hearing to House Bill 78 on January 19 at 1 p.m. in Annapolis.

HB 78 is sponsored by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services entitled, "*Criminal Law - Contraband - Telecommunication Devices - Penalties.*" The synopsis of this bill is making a felony specified offenses related to possessing, delivering, concealing, or receiving a telecommunication device in a place of confinement; and increasing maximum penalties to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years and a fine not exceeding \$3,000 or both.

MCEA supported HB 78 and is currently working with Maryland's Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Gary Maynard to ensure the protection and welfare of correctional staff members and their families.

MCEA Executive Director David Boschert stated, "We strongly feel correctional staff members and their families need to be protected at their workplace. Many times, allowing inmates to have use of these wireless communications in the prisons can lead to information leaking out, and in turn, cause potential harm and danger to its staff and family members. We want to make sure they are protected first and foremost by not putting them in any harm's way!"

MCEA will continue to speak out and fight against any injustices that affect state employees, retirees, and county employees, for their welfare is MCEA's honor and duty.

More information about MCEA is available at [www.mcea.org](http://www.mcea.org). For additional information, please call Vanessa DiDomenico (MCEA Communications Director) at 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 211.

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