



Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee
Chair Derek E. Davis
Vice Chair Kathleen M. Dumais

House Bill 163 - Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations - Right to Work

The Baltimore Washington Building Trades Council and its affiliated local Unions **OPPOSE** House Bill 163.

Right-to-work laws reduce construction incomes by 13 percent and the incomes of all American workers by around 6 percent, while having no proven record of stimulating employment growth. By reducing union membership, right-to-work laws increase inequality, reduce worker training, increase workplace fatalities, and have negative effects on state budgets. Right to work in MD would dismantle the largest privately funded apprenticeship program in the State, thusly increasing the tax payer burden to subsidize tax incentive hiring and training.

Unionization and prevailing wage laws strongly reduce income inequality in the construction industry while right-to-work laws tend to intensify the problem. Ultimately, pro-worker policies are the best strategy for raising worker incomes, increasing consumer demand, and reducing inequality.

Right to work laws are intended to bankrupt Labor Unions by overburdening their resources that provide the wages, health insurance and pensions with non-contributing members to support these quality of life benefits.

Labor Unions bring the freedom to balance life and work. Real freedom in the workplace is about being able to attend a parent-teacher conference, take a loved one to the doctor, and have time for what matters in life without feeling like you're falling behind. This is what we need to work toward, not laws like these.

We urge the Committee for an unfavorable report. Thank you.

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Sources:

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