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Patrick Moran - President

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**Testimony**  
**HB 163 – Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations - Right to Work**  
**Economic Matters**  
**February 4, 2020**  
**Oppose**

AFSCME strongly opposes HB 163. This bill would institute a “Right-To-Work” law on Maryland private and public sector employment.

We have just celebrated the holiday established in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1961 Dr. King said, “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

It should also be noted the quote from the labor rights advocate Eugene V. Debs, “Those who produce should have, but we know those who produce the most – that is, those who work hardest, and at the most difficult and most menial tasks – have the least.”

This legislation would create a right-to-work-for-less: less wages, less benefits, less time off to spend with family and community. It is an abomination to the concepts of economic and social justice and fairness.

We strongly urge the committee vote down this legislation.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.  
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
800.492.1996

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