

**Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 163  
Labor and Employment – Labor Organizations – Right to Work**

**House Economic Matters Committee  
February 4, 2020  
1:00 PM**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association opposes House Bill 163, which attempts to limit the protections and rights of workers in Maryland.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Maryland has long celebrated the freedom of association and the role of organized labor. House Bill 163 seeks to restrict and weaken those values. The strength of organized labor is critical to protecting workers, ensuring quality, and maintaining fairness, safety, and competitive wages in the workplace. This legislation weakens the ability for educators and other workers to organize in Maryland.

Strong employee associations are able to solve problems and represent the needs and concerns of educators and the community to benefit everyone. This legislation is unnecessary and harmful to Maryland’s workforce.

**MSEA urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 163.**