



SEIU Maryland & DC State Council

1410 Bush Street, Suite F
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Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1015 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers

House Economic Matters Committee

March 7, 2023

1:00 PM

Presented by: Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

We urge a **UNFAVORABLE Report on HB 1015**

On behalf of SEIU, I am pleased to offer our organization's opposition to HB 1015 the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers.

With over two million members, SEIU is the largest labor union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers, many of them in low-wage, temporary positions in key service sectors to improve their lives and the services we provide. In Maryland and DC, the eight SEIU local unions that make up our State Council represent over 50,000 health care, property service and public service members.

If any change should be made to the Act concerning seasonal and/or temporary workers, it would be to change "106" to "90" days. 90 days is a more common definition for temporary employment and is the term more states used when passing Earned Sick Leave legislation. Some may ask "where does 106 days come from?". That seems like an unlikely number and one not commonly found in statutes. It came from a painstaking process that produced a compromise that the members of the General Assembly could support. Several sides came together after working in good faith to bring this about.

This bill seeks to undo the work that this Committee did over several years. It is supported by the same forces that opposed that opposed the Healthy Working Families Act from Day One and continue to oppose it to this day. To no one's surprise, they claim the law is doing them great harm and must be changed. As evidence of that, they point to the people who opposed the bill in the beginning, do now, and will, no doubt, oppose it in the future, without showing evidence of real hardship. Do not be fooled.

Our economy has seen an explosion in temporary, seasonal, and part-time jobs. Many workers are in a "gig economy", with few protections and benefits. These are the very workers who get some benefit, however small, from the law. Do not take that away from them.

Thank you.

We ask an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT of HB 1015.**