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TESTIMONY ON HB0339 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Unemployment Insurance - Disqualification - Stoppage of Work Caused by Labor Dispute

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support with amendments of HB#0339, Unemployment Insurance - Disqualification - Stoppage of Work Caused by Labor Dispute

This bill attempts to prevent economic harm that favors an employer attempts to fight against labor organizing in a business. Employees who lose a job due to employer's resistance to labor organizing may be prevented or discouraged from organizing by threats of or actual loss of a job resulting from a labor dispute. This bill will fix that imbalance by making employees exercising their labor rights less likely to cease labor efforts when faced with employer resistance that stops any income from their job due to employer actions causing a loss of that job.

The media has documented cases in which labor organizaing efforts are being met by employers who shut down a business or an outlet of a business rather that negotiate in good faith with the employees. While other justifications are offered, upon review of that justification, it is found to be related to labor organizing and not a decision based on the circumstances alleged by the employer. Both Federal and State Departments of Labor have documented cases of employer intimidation and threats to employees over loss of income if labor activities commense or are successful. This bill will give employees tools to resist that pressure and work to resolve any labor dispute successfully.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable with amendments report on HB0339.