



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 163

Right to Work

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

To: Hon. Dereck Davis Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Warren Randall Pointer, Electronics Technician III, AFSCME Local 1072 Shop Steward, AFSCME Local 1072 Executive Board Member.

Mr. Davis et al:

I am writing you to express my strong opposition to the right to work legislation in HB 163. At a time when this country is in dire need to strengthen Unions this bill seeks to undermine that need. This type of legislation has personally affected me when I worked and lived in Virginia in the recent past. When management is free to fire employees without just cause the worker suffers, their family suffers and the local economy suffers. It is also demoralizing for the worker, who is doing the best they can at their job but has to go to the unemployment line regardless. Simply put this type of legislation is just not fair to the American worker. I have worked at the University of Maryland for the past 17 years as an Electronics Technician III. I am five years away from retirement. The Union, AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has really turned around my life for the better since I joined in 2006. I am having a positive experience in my work and I am fighting the good fight for my brother and sisters of AFSCME Local 1072. I have seen the Union fight for the rights of my coworkers and I then decided to increase my involvement with the Union as a way of showing my thanks to the Union and their efforts to improve the life of their members.

Unions are good for America and any legislation that undermines this is not good for America. I would like to reiterate my position on HB 163, I am against this legislation and I implore that you and your fellow committee members vote a resounding NO to this legislation. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter as the cause of fighting this type of legislation is something that I feel very strongly about.

Sincerely,

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