

MUSICIANS' ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN BALTIMORE
Local 40-543, American Federation of Musicians
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January 31, 2020

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 163
Right to Work
February 4, 2020

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

FROM: Mary C. Plaine, Secretary-Treasurer, The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan
Baltimore, Local 40-543

This letter is in opposition to House Bill 163. On behalf of our 500 members, The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore strongly objects to HB 163 and asks that the House Economic Matters Committee vote NOT to support it.

"Right to Work" is a misnomer: The legislation should be entitled "Right to work for less by weakening the ability of working people to have good wages, decent benefits and healthy working conditions."

Any attempt to undercut the ability of working people to form and maintain meaningful unions weakens the middle class and a strong economic base for the State of Maryland. Studies have shown that states that have well-supported unionized work forces have citizens who earn more money than states with "right to starve" laws in place. Why would the Maryland state legislature want to "fix" a problem that does not exist?

Again, Local 40-543 urges members of the House Economic Matters Committee to vote AGAINST House Bill 163.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Plaine
Secretary-Treasurer