



In OPPOSITION to
HB 163

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Jason Chorpenning, President
United Food & Commercial Workers International Union Local 27
21 West Road, Towson, MD 21204

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Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House

Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the 23,000 working men and women represented by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 27, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 163.

Our members work in retail food, food processing, manufacturing, distribution, gaming, health care and other industries. These hard-working men and women help form the backbone of Maryland's middle class. A middle class where everyday union members in Maryland feed our families, educate our children, protect our streets, pick up our trash, erect new buildings and care for our elderly. Unfortunately, if passed HB 163 will make it harder for these middle-class workers to provide for their own families.

So-called "Right To Work" legislation is nothing more than a nationwide orchestrated campaign to erode the living standards and political power of working families. Data has shown that workers in so-called "Right-to-Work" states earn far less than their counterparts in Non-Right-to-Work states. In addition, states with Right To Work laws have lower rates of health insurance and higher rates of poverty.

Make no mistake, the advocates of this bill falsely claim concern for worker rights, while actually promoting corporate profits. This is NOT an effort to advance the rights... This is NOT a proposal to increase worker pay... This is NOT a way to make Maryland more attractive to businesses.

We should call this bill what it is – the Right To Work for LESS, our members and all Maryland families deserve better. We should be discussing proposals to create new jobs, rebuild manufacturing and increase living standards; not be wasting our time on proposals that only serve to exacerbate income inequality.

I urge the Committee to OPPOSE HB 163.