



WESTERN MARYLAND BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Lawrence A. Wolfe, Jr., *President*

Rodney E. Rice, *Vice President*

Clifford P. Wendricks, IV, *Secretary/Treasurer*

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 163

Right to Work

February 4th, 2020

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

FROM: Lawrence A. Wolfe Jr.

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

I am President of the Western Maryland Building & Construction Trades Council, representing approximately 2,000 men and women in the building and construction trades industry, covering the three western counties in Maryland. We **oppose HB163 – Labor and Employment – Labor Organizations – Right to Work**. “Right to Work” is wrong for Maryland and her citizens. “Right to Work” is not about one’s right to work; it’s all about benefitting big business and crushing workers’ protections and their ability to negotiate with their employers. Supported across this country by ALEC and the Koch Brothers, “Right to Work” allows union objectors to receive all the benefits negotiated by the union, including the union health care and pension and guarantees union representation, without those objectors paying a dime for it.

“Right to Work” is really the Right to Work for Less. Twelve of the fifteen states with the worst pay gaps between men and women are “right to work” states. The average worker in states with “right to work” laws makes over \$6,000 less than workers in states without “right to work”, and approximately ¼ of jobs in “right to work” states are in low-wage occupations, compared to 18% in other states.



W.MD.BCTC
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Education investment in “right to work” states compared to other states is approximately 30% less and the rate of workplace fatalities is more than 50% higher in “right to work” states.

“Right to work” is wrong for Maryland and her citizens. We oppose this legislation and ask that you give HB163 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Wolfe Jr.

Lawrence A. Wolfe Jr.
President