



February 3, 2020

Honorable Dereck Davis
Chair and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 163, "Right to Work"
Hearing: February 4, 2020

Dear Chair and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the roughly 1,500 union members of the Washington – Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA who reside and work in Maryland to urge you to oppose HB 163, the "Right to Work" bill that is set for hearing in your Committee on February 4, 2020.

The phrase "Right to Work" is a misnomer created to mislead the masses into thinking it's legislation that helps to bolster jobs, lift up the working class, and strengthen the economy. In reality, "Right to Work" legislation is simply a guise to allow employees access to the benefits of union representation without having to pay their fair share for the union's services – all on the backs of their fellow employees who financially support the work of the union. "Right to Work" legislation does not provide employees with a choice of union representation (U.S. labor law already provides for that opportunity), but misguidedly allows for the legal option to freeload.

Any version of this so-called "Right to Work" bill leads Marylanders down a road where resources in workplaces dwindle, wages start to decrease, and ultimately less money is put back into Maryland's economy. The members of the Washington – Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA believe in strengthening the economy of Maryland, not diluting it, and strongly oppose HB 163.

We urge you to stand with our members in opposition of HB 163 by voting it down.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia M. O'Donnell".

Patricia M. O'Donnell

Patricia M. O'Donnell, Washington – Mid Atlantic Local Executive Director
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