



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

815 16th Street, NW, • Washington, DC 20006 • (202) 974-8150 • Fax (202) 974-8152

An AFL-CIO "Union City"

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January 30, 2020

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

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Labor Council, AFL-CIO (MWC), I write this letter in strong opposition to HB 163, the so-called "Right to Work" in Maryland bill. The MWC represents over 150,000 area union members in every line of work, from service and hospitality industries, retail sales, and communications to transportation, manufacturing, construction, building trades, and the public sector.

This bill would not only hurt the growth of the unions that our council represents, but it would also make it difficult, if not impossible, for unions to even operate in the state of Maryland. The Maryland House of Delegates should be talking about expanding collective bargaining rights to all public employees at the town, city, county, and state levels. Instead, this Committee --- once again --- is bogged down by anti-union legislation that is clearly out of step with Maryland voters and their elected representatives.

The "Right to Work" bill is full of unfair and burdensome requirements, including requiring unions to represent non-union workers if they get into trouble or have a grievance with the employer. The bill also allows the non-union worker to get the same above-standard wages and benefits as workers who join the union and pay their fair share. These requirements turn the entire notion of fairness on its head.

We urge you to protect all workers' right to fairness, justice, and a good job with decent wages and benefits. The time is now for us to get back to focusing on the issues that make working people in the state of Maryland stronger and not weaker.

Mr. Chairman, in the strongest possible terms, I urge you not to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Andrew Washington

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