



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: Saul Goldberg, Digital Learning Specialist, Montgomery College, Takoma Park Campus

Hello Mr Davis,

First off, I guess I am surprised to see this bill introduced in the first place. I do not see any problem that needs addressing that this bill would address.

However, it *does* create a problem for workers. Workers should have the right to organize to defend their rights and benefits without extra hurdles to doing so. Companies deal with their employees as one voice. It is important that employees have the same equivalent right. Without this right, they have fewer protections, lower salaries, fewer benefits. We should celebrate what unions do for employees.

People in Maryland already have the right to work. They are not deprived of that. They should also not be deprived the right to organize. In states with "right to work" laws, employees typically earn 16% or more less than employees in states that do not have such laws. Also, they have fewer and weaker workplace protections against racial and sexual discrimination, in matters of discipline, in safety issues, and so on. Why is this something we want for Maryland workers? Answer: we don't. We don't want it. We don't need it. And we should not be spending time on this when there are so many other seriously important issues to tackle.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
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