



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

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HB 13 - Influence on Collective Bargaining - Prohibition on Use of Public Funds and Income Tax Addition Modification

House Appropriations Committee

February 3, 2021

SUPPORT

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO thanks you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 13 - Influence on Collective Bargaining - Prohibition on Use of Public Funds and Income Tax Addition Modification. On behalf of our 150,000 union members affiliated with the Council throughout Metropolitan Washington D.C. including Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties, we enthusiastically support this bill for its protection of the right to collectively bargain for workers in the State of Maryland.

The Labor community knows that this is a very important bill that protects collective bargaining by barring any tax deduction for union-busting activity. Taxpayers should never be on the hook to fund any company that wants to deny or discourage workers from bargaining. As many of you know, collective bargaining is at the heart of the Labor Movement and is historically responsible for creating and sustaining the middle class. At this time, when we are in economic uncertainty while fighting a global pandemic, it is more important than ever that workers have their right to collectively bargain protected without misinformation or hostility in their workplace against unions and organized labor.

The fiscal note makes it clear that the effect on small businesses is likely minimal. Furthermore, no employer should base their budgets on a tax break used to scare their employees out of organizing a union. Collective bargaining is good for the economy, good for workers, and good for the State of Maryland.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB 13.

In Solidarity,

Dyana Forester

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