



Founded 1889

## PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

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# TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1321 RIGHT TO WORK MARCH 5, 2021

Chairman: Honorable Dereck Davis, Chair

Vice Chairman: Kathleen Dumais, Members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: Gerald W. Jackson Sr., Secretary-Treasurer Md. State & D.C AFL-CIO

Every year we are tasked with addressing this Partisan, Divisive, Union Busting Bill.

We are all familiar with the despicable historical character known as "The Father of Right To Work" Vance Muse. He was an Unsavory Political Operative whose views on Segregation and Jim Crowism sparked the Movement known as Right to Work. No matter what you're told about how this bill will enhance the business climate of the state of Maryland, the architect of this RTW wasn't concerned about business, but perpetuating the ugliest era in American history, the Segregation of Americans based on skin color. Some have said that no one should be forced into joining a union, it's Un-American, but they're more than willing to reap the benefits of the hard working Americans who have made tremendous sacrifices for the right to be represented by a Union and the right to collectively Bargain!! President John F. Kennedy said it best,

Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor--those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized--do a disservice to the cause of democracy. Fifty years or so ago the American Labor Movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now. From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions. Their living standards are the highest in the world. Their job rights are protected by collective bargaining agreements. They have fringe benefits that were unheard of less than a generation ago.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor. But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders. Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources and for saving the family-sized farms. They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

-- John F. Kennedy, Aug. 30, 1960

In this climate of Partisan Politics and the attack on the American worker, how does promoting RTW legislation unify us? The foundation of this RTW Movement and the essence of this legislation today is to cause division among the American workers who are willing to support their cause and ideology that all workers should be treated fairly, equally, and have the right to Collectively Bargain with their employers to achieve fair wages, benefits, and the ability to retire with dignity. Also implement standards of productivity to allow our employers to prosper, and to ensure a safe Harassment free workplace. Based on this testimony, I'm asking that this bill is deemed Unfavorable

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Jackson

Assistant Business Manger Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union # 486

Secretary- Treasurer Md. State & D.C. AFL-CIO