



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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TESTIMONY

HB1321 – LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – RIGHT TO WORK

POSITION: OPPOSE / UNFAVORABLE

Honorable members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC), our 41,000 of the most skilled construction workers and apprentices in the nation, and including some 3,000 carpenters right here in the State of Maryland, we write today in the strongest possible opposition to HB1321, the so-called “Right to work” legislation before the Economic Matters Committee.

The concept of “Right to Work” is a farce, designed to trick workers into believing that their union membership somehow inhibits their ability to engage in meaningful employment. Noting could be farther from the truth.

The truth is that this national strategy seeks to crush the last great American institution that organizes and advocates for the rights of workers: labor unions. By mislabeling this effort as a “right,” this legislation is designed to make workers believe that union representation, membership and participation somehow inhibits or diminishes the rights of workers. In fact, this legislation does precisely the opposite, by stripping some of the most important union organizing tools from workers: union membership itself.

This is nothing more than a dishonest attempt to further separate workers from the true rights that American Labor has built over decades. It’s a race to the bottom strategy that has only led to lower wages, benefits and working conditions in states that have implemented such legislation.

There’s no place for this in the great State of Maryland, or anywhere else.

For these reasons, we request an *unfavorable* committee report on HB1321.