

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council

IBEW LOCAL 24



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary

PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

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Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

House Economic Matters Committee On

HB 1321 Labor and Employment - Right to Work

STRONGLY OPPOSE

March 3, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in opposition to House Bill 1321.

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a 41 year member, and the Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, located in Baltimore. In addition, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland, residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians.

The work we do is not easy; it requires high skills and has a fair amount of risk. We understand this, which is why we provide extensive training and fight for quality wages, pensions, and health care. Right to Work laws accomplish the opposite. This is nothing more than clever branding designed to trick working class people into giving up what little leverage we have left.

Right to work laws have one purpose, to weaken unions, period. It is a well-funded and coordinated campaign across America to take even more power from working families. The results from Right to Work States are in, and they're not good for the middle class. States with Right to Work laws average lower wages, lower rates of health insurance, and higher rates of poverty. That is what Right to Work gets you, the right to work for LESS! Don't be fooled by this gimmick of a name and the idea that this is good for anyone besides big business.

Please Stop the "Race to the Bottom" and give an "Unfavorable" recommendation to HB-1321.

Sincerely,



Peter P. Demchuk

Business Manager

PPD:mgs

opeiu #2

AFL-CIO



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

A.F.L. – C.I.O. – C.F.L.

Local Union No. 307

401 Decatur Street - Cumberland, MD 21502

301-724-3403 Fax 301-724-2722



Rodney E. Rice – Business Manager

www.ibew307.org

George A. Koontz - President

March 5, 2021

To: House Economics Matters Committee

From: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers L.U. 307

Subject: HB 1321

Position: Strongly oppose

Dear, Honorable Chairman, Dereck Davis.

I am the Business Manager of the IBEW 307. I strongly oppose the HB 1321 Right to work. This Clever branding of negative effects on the working class of people should be abolished immediately. There are many organizations that charge a fee and dues to have representation at the table of Government. If the unions are not allowed to have a membership with dues and assessments then all other organization should have to open up there organization to all the public for free membership.

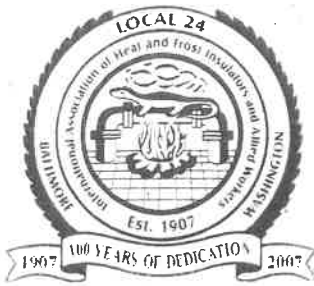
The workers have a right to have representation for safety in the work place, the ability to file a grievance for disciplinary action and to also be able to retire with dignity at the end of a career. That's the value of having representation while working under a collective bargaining agreement.

The members of the IBEW 307 strongly oppose the very misleading right to work legislation and will not support representatives who do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney E. Rice".

Rodney Rice
IBEW L.U. 307
Business Manager



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**Heat & Frost Insulators
& Allied Workers**
Local 24
Baltimore-Washington, DC

901 Montgomery Street
Laurel, MD 20707

Tel: 301-725-2400
Fax: 301-725-0804

March 1, 2021

Maryland House of Delegates
Economic Matters Committee
Chair: Dereck Davis
Vice Chair: Kathleen Dumais

OPPOSE

HB 1321 – Labor and Employment - Right to Work

Insulators and Allied Workers Local 24
Brian S. Cavey, Business Manager
brian.cavey@insulators24.org

Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and members of the committee, my name is Brian Cavey; I am Business Manager of Insulators and Allied Workers Local 24. We represent over 450 working men and women in the insulation industry. I am writing to you in OPPOSITION of HB1321.

“Right to work” is the name for a policy designed to take away rights from working people. Backers of right to work laws claim that these laws protect workers against being forced to join a union. The reality is that federal law already makes it illegal to force someone to join a union. The real purpose of right to work laws is to tilt the balance toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of working families. These laws make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

In fact, research shows that when governments support workers’ right to freely organize and advocate for themselves, the playing field between workers and corporations levels. Workers share in the profits they help create by bargaining for better wages and benefits. Workers and companies collaborate more, investing in training and other mutually beneficial improvements. And workers are better represented in the government and can advocate for policies that benefit everyday Americans.

By reducing workers' voice, right-to-work laws drive down the wages and reduce the economic well-being of all workers—union and nonunion alike. At the same time, right-to-work laws make it easier for more of the economy's gains to flow straight to the country's wealthiest people. The name "right to work" is a lie. The federal government already protects workers' freedom not to join a union. Workers can decide to opt out of membership at a unionized workplace and pay a reduced fee that covers the costs the union pays to negotiate for wages and benefits and represent an employee if they have a problem at work.⁸ Opponents of unions frequently claim that workers who decline to join a union are still legally required to support that union's political activities. In reality, however, these fees exclude the costs of political activities.

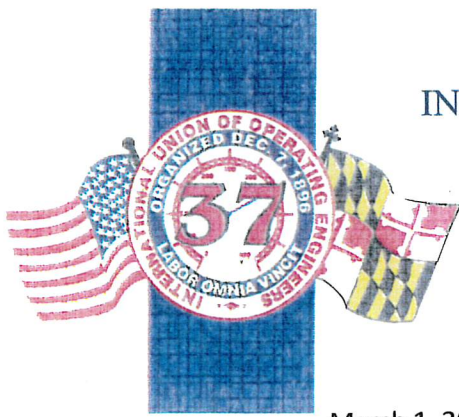
From the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the AARP, organizations require their members to pay dues to receive benefits. Without dues collection, these organizations would be unable to provide the services that members expect. Indeed, when a local chamber leader in another state was asked if his chapter would agree to provide all services to any interested business, even if that business does not pay dues, he explained that they could not do that because dues are the primary source of chamber funding and it would be unfair to other dues-paying members.

This legislation does nothing to create jobs, grow the middle class or improve the lives of workers; it is strictly designed to limit union strength and union density. It's shameful that some members of the legislature have chosen to prioritize big business interests over the demands of their constituents. Insulators Local 24 is dedicated to advancing the lives of working people by fighting against dangerous right to work legislation. We strongly encourage defeat of this legislation!

Sincerely,



Brian S Cavey, Business Manager
Insulators & Allied Workers Local 24



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL 37

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO
Chartered May 1, 1900

March 1, 2021

Robert A. Holsey, Jr.
*Business Manager and
Financial Secretary*

Charles E. McGee, Jr.
*President and Training
Director*

Peter A. Elmos
*Vice President and
Business Representative*

Mark F. McQuay
*Recording Secretary and
Business Representative*

Michael B. Funk
Treasurer

To: MD House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee (ECM)

Opposition to HB 1321

Labor and Employment- Right to Work

March 5th, 2021

From: Robert A. Holsey Jr.
Business Manager
I.U.O.E. Local 37
3615 North Point Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21222

Chairman Davis, Honorable Delegates and Committee Members; I am writing today to ask you to vote unfavorably on The Right to Work Bill, HB 1321.

This legislation will severely impact the middle-class working men and women in the state of Maryland. This legislation is very deceiving, it does not guarantee a person a job, it only guarantees them the right not to join a union; a right every man and woman already has. No union can force an individual to join its ranks, just as no government or agency can deny an individual the right to join a union. In every state that has Right to Work legislation these same men and women have experienced a much lower standard of living, causing extreme hardships to their families which in turn will lead them to seek assistance from state agencies in order for them to put food on the table, care for their sick or any other help they may need. RTW is a political strategy designed to take away rights from workers further rigging the system at the expense of the workers in favor of the wealthiest 1%.

I ask you to look at the states that have had RTW legislation in place for several years and see what changed after its passage. I believe you will find a much higher poverty level and a large increase in minimum wage job opportunities. The average worker in RTW states earned 8% less per hour on average compared to collective bargaining states. Most family's in RTW states need to work several jobs just to make ends meet.

I thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and again ask you to vote against this legislation.

Best regards,

Executive Board

Robert A. Holsey, Jr.
Charles E. McGee Jr.
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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

March 1, 2021

House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee:

Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Brian Courtien, and I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia jurisdictions. We represent over 1,500 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

I want to thank the Committee Members for taking the time to read our OPPOSITION to HB 1321 Labor and Employment-Right to Work.

I write to you today to urge you to vote against HB 1321. Right to Work does not create jobs and has no impact on the economic stimulus in any State where it has been enacted. In fact, workers in states with these laws earn an average of \$5,680 less a year than workers in other states. Right to work creates lower wages, poor job safety, no skills training, no health insurance, and no pension on which to retire with some security and dignity. States with right to work laws spend \$3,392 less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than other states, and students are less likely to be performing at their appropriate grade level in math and reading. Right to work is a partisan anti-union ploy to undermine the basic rights of workers. Working families without these rights to work laws benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.

Please vote unfavorable on HB 1321.

Thank you,

Brian Courtien
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
IUPAT DC51



Chairman Derek E. Davis
Vice-Chair Kathleen Dumais
Members
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Rm. 21
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 5, 2020

HB1321 Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations – Right to Work

Position – Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

The Baltimore Washington Construction & Public Employees Laborers' District, LiUNA opposes House Bill 1321, Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations – Right to Work.

This bill does the exact opposite of its title. Instead of protecting the rights of workers, so-called “Right to Work” legislation is solely designed to strip away the rights of both workers and employers to collectively bargain and enter into agreements over wages and benefits. In states where it has passed, the only “rights” this type of legislation has served to create is the “right” for people to benefit from voluntary agreements between management and labor, without having to contribute to the efforts that made the agreement possible in the first place.

Beyond the philosophical arguments for and against, pragmatically speaking, Right-to-Work laws only serve to ***lower*** the quality of life of ***all*** workers through lower wages, less access to healthcare, and higher rates of workplace fatalities.

According to Census Bureau statistics, states with Right to Work laws have lower wages, driving down average incomes by 12%¹, and creating 14% less in median household income.²

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/cew/datatoc.htm> - by industry, annual averages, 2014

² <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-households.html> - Table H-8A, Median Household Income by State - 2 Year Average

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation reports that 3.5% more workers under 65 in right-to-work states live without health insurance as compared to collective bargaining states.³ And 5.2% fewer private sector employers in these states offer health insurance than employers in collective bargaining states,⁴ especially those with less than 50 employees.⁵

Finally, according to economic research done by the University of Michigan's Institute for Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy, occupational fatality rates in the construction industry were 34% higher in right-to-work states compared to collective bargaining states.⁶

It's no accident that there's a direct correlation between the 28 Right-to-Work states and the 28 poorest states with the lowest household income. Twenty-three of them are Right-to-Work states. It's also no accidents that eight out of the ten states that rely most heavily on federal aid are Right-to-Work states.

No matter how you slice the data, on average wages in Right-to-Work states are lower than wages in non-Right-to-Work states. If Right-to-Works becomes a reality in Maryland, it's the taxpayer – from the employee to the business owner – who will be on the hook to cover that income gap. And it will be the taxpayer who will have to fund health insurance for working families that would lose coverage. That's just bad for the economy.

Ultimately, pro-worker policies are the best strategy for increasing economic activity by raising worker incomes, creating health-security for working families, and increasing worker safety.

Please look at the facts and spend time with the data. Compare the education and poverty levels between these two groups of states. Understand the slower levels of economic growth, and why these poorer states struggle to pay for their own infrastructure. Realize why so much of their populations are dependent upon public assistance. Right-to-Work is bad for middle class families. It's bad for workforce development. And it's bad for Maryland.

We urge the Committee for an unfavorable report on House Bill 1321. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Binetti
LiUNA, BWLDC

³ <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/nonelderly-0-64/?currentTimeframe=0>

⁴ <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/percent-of-firms-offering-coverage/?currentTimeframe=2>

⁵ <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/firms-offering-coverage-by-size/?currentTimeframe=2>

⁶ Zullo, Richard. Right-to-Work Laws and Fatalities in Construction. Institute for Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy, Univ. of Michigan, March 2011. http://www.bollettinoadapt.it/old/files/document/11618zullo_03_11.pdf