



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1321 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT -RIGHT TO WORK MARCH 5, 2021

To: Hon. Dereck E. Davis, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
From: Tom Clark, IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, please **oppose HB 1321** promptly and with conviction. This so called, "Right to Work" legislation is harmful to the working people of Maryland and its history is rooted in racism. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are staunchly opposing any attempt to legitimize such a detrimental piece of legislation.

As you know, all the states that incorporate Right to Work laws are at the bottom of the list when it comes to worker rights and benefits. I cannot imagine that you, as a representative of the people, would like to enact a law that would harm a Marylanders quality of life. Please stand up for your constituents and shoot down this attempt to weaken the working family and those who represent them. That's exactly what HB 1321 does! The history of Right to Work legislation is disturbing and very transparent. White supremacist, Vance Muse authored this bill as a way of weakening any organization that represented, trained and befriended minorities. I think this bill had no merit 90 years ago and deserves no discussion in the Maryland General Assembly today. Our goal in representing the working person is to offer them good pay for good work, benefits, the ability to have the time in life for the important things, and to retire with security and dignity. Please, Delegates, join us in this goal of improving the lives of not just our members, but all that reside and work in the Freestate. Do not hesitate, strike down this lingering "Jim Crow" law, that is harmful to your constituents.

Please join me in strong **opposition of HB 1321!** This is not a tough decision, vote unfavorable and stay on the right side of your constituents and the right side of history.

Sincerely, Tom Clark
IBEW Local 26

