

# 1199SEIU

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January 19, 2021

## Written Testimony Submitted for the Record to the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee Income Tax Subtraction Modification - Union Dues (HB 179) Jan. 21, 2021

### SUPPORT

Chairperson Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

We the 10,000 Maryland and DC based members of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East are writing today in support of HB179. We are writing in support of this legislation because we believe workers should be allowed to deduct union dues, an important cost of earning their income, from their taxable income.

This legislation would benefit nearly all union members across Maryland, decreasing their tax burden in a time where all working people could use the extra financial help.

Historically, unions have played a central role in ensuring that working people have good pay and benefits as well as a voice in their workplace and in our State at large. Union wages on average are higher than non-union wages, however unions play a part in raising wages for all working people. Unions play a central role in reducing income inequality and boosting prosperity for the middle class.

Unionization also promotes active participation in our democracy and union members on average have a higher voting rate in elections than non-union members.

Unions are a proven mechanism for working people to come together and negotiate better wages and stronger benefits. Union dues are an essential expense in the pursuit of a more prosperous life, and all workers should be able to deduct them on their tax returns.