



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

HB 179 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues House Ways and Means Committee January 21, 2021

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 179 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Due to the changes in our Federal tax system with the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, union dues were eliminated in the itemized deduction for miscellaneous expenses. Maryland union members cannot itemize an expense for State income tax purposes if the expense cannot be claimed as a federal itemized deduction. Therefore, union members in Maryland have taken a double hit; first by the Federal government, and then by the State of Maryland.

HB 179 brings a subtraction modification back for union dues, for State income tax calculation. Unionized workers are our teachers, firefighters, and our police and corrections officers. They are our transportation workers, social workers, nurses, paraprofessionals, skilled construction workers, and the essential workers that have kept our state afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. They build and maintain our State and educate and care for our residents. When we can help mitigate the damages done by the Federal government, we should. HB 179 will allow for a subtraction modification of union dues subtracted from federal adjusted gross income, at the State level, therefore lessening the tax burden for Maryland's union members, and, ultimately, reversing, in part, the damage done by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 179.

Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore

1055 Taylor Avenue, Suite 218, Baltimore, MD 21286

Local 40-543
American Federation of Musicians
Visit our web site at:
<http://www.musiciansunion.org>

Michael Decker
President



Phone 410-337-7277
FAX 410-337-7279
Email office@musiciansunion.org
Office Hours Tues to Thurs 10 am to 4 pm

Mary C. Plaine
Secretary-Treasurer

January 18, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne R. Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Mary C. Plaine, Secretary-Treasurer, The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore, Local 40-543, American Federation of Musicians (AFM)

The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore supports HB 179 and asks that the House Ways and Means Committee vote to support it and send it on to the full chamber for passage.

Local 40-543's members were negatively affected by the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which eliminated the payment of Union dues as a tax credit for federal income tax purposes. Current Maryland law states that if the tax credit for federal taxes does not exist, then it cannot exist for state taxes either. HB 179 will correct this and allow Union members to deduct our dues from taxable income for state taxes.

Again, Local 40-543 urges members of the House Ways and Means Committee to vote **FOR** HB 179.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Plaine
Secretary-Treasurer

Support Live Music



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 179 – Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues
Ways & Means
January 21, 2021
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 179. This legislation would allow a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain union dues paid by an individual during the taxable year, applying to benefit taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

Unions provide a range of services and offerings not just to their members, but to the community at large. Continuing education and scholarships, and health and safety programs are the most commonly known; but unions also engage with a variety of both local and national charities, sponsorships and other formal and informal partnerships to inform, engage and give back to the community.

While businesses of all sizes have been allowed significant reductions and write-offs for their taxes, the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) eliminated the itemized deduction for many workers' expenses, including union dues. American workers have lost numerous tax deductions including the deduction for uniforms required in specialized professions. Meanwhile the "three-martini lunch" tax deduction was yet again recently re-enacted for America's businessmen.

HB 179 is a small step toward acknowledgement that union members should be treated fairly and equitably when it comes to tax liability. AFSCME Council 3 asks for a favorable report of this legislation.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

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Susan C. Flashman, President

Executive Vice President
Dick Bissell

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
January 21, 2021**

TO: Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, and the Members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Susan C. Flashman, President, Maryland/District of Columbia Alliance for Retired Americans

Dear Honorable Anne, Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

It has come to my attention that HB 179 is under consideration by this body. This bill is meant to correct the Income Tax disparity that was created by the Federal Tax laws. In Maryland, our Tax Laws follow the Federal Tax Laws, and since the new tax laws disallow the deduction of Union Dues, it is your responsibility to correct this for Maryland taxpayers who pay Union dues as part of their employment. Supporting our Maryland Union members in achieving a "fair shake" for their hard work is the right thing to do.

As a retired member of Local 26 of The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the president of the Maryland /DC Alliance for Retired Americans, I think I can properly say that this deduction is something Union workers have relied on to legally reduce the tax burden. Union members are dedicated workers because of their Union affiliations and the additional security and benefits their membership brings.

After working over 30 years myself as an inside wireman, working in all types of weather, on new commercial construction, renovating and upgrading power plants and everything in between, I can personally attest to the pride I took in my state recognizing unions membership.

At the January 21st Hearing on HB179 I hope you will support this legislation and expect that the Full Committee will vote favorably on it. When we retired from our careers, we must remember those who take our places!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan C. Flashman".

Susan C. Flashman, President

Maryland/ District of Columbia Alliance for Retired Americans



Amalgamated Transit Union

LOCAL 1300

126 WEST 25TH STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218

Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CLC

(410) 889-3566-67

Fax: (410) 243-5541

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179 Income Tax-Subtraction Modification-Union Dues January 21, 2021

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President / Business Agent

LARRY DUNHAM
Vice President

STEVE GLASSCHO
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Northwest Shop

To: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Steven Glasscho, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/ ATU Local 1300

Good morning Madame Chair and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee. I am writing this letter in support for HB 179, this Bill rights an incredible and egregious wrong done to the American working man and woman. This complete injustice done by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, I feel was a direct slap in the face of all Union workers done to try to impact and destroy the union movement for a fair and livable wage. With your vote in favor of HB 179 is an acknowledgment that you believe in the importance of labor in all its aspects. I only ask that you take this time in history to correct the terrible wrong that was done to all Union workers and support HB 179 and let them know that they are doing a great job and deserve a break for their efforts to keep this country running.

In closing I would like to thank this committee for taking time to listen to some of the voices of your constituents and workers of this country that are in favor of HB 179 that gives the direct help that we all need to make it in these trying times to keep food on the table, pay our bills and keep us all motivated to do our jobs and not feel like we are being taken advantage of by unfair laws preventing us from living a decent lifestyle.



Maryland House of delegates – Ways and Means Committee

Chair: Anne R. Kaiser

Vice Chair: Alonzo T. Washington

House Bill 179 - Income Tax –Subtraction Modification –Union Dues

Position: Support

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports HB 179.

Union dues may be used to support a wide variety of programs or activities, including paying the salaries and benefits of union leaders and staff; union governance and legal representation.

Union dues are the way workers who have decided to form a union pool their resources to enable the work of the union. Union dues fund the cost of bargaining, the cost of enforcing the collective agreement, and the cost of organizing campaigns union members instruct their union to conduct.

Federal Tax reform changed the rules of union dues deductions. For tax years 2018 through 2025, union dues – and all employee expenses – are no longer deductible, even if the employee can itemize deductions. However, if the taxpayer is self-employed and pays union dues, those dues are deductible as a business expense and with the passage of House Bill 179 Maryland's essential hard working Union members will be able to do the same.

We urge the Committee for a **favorable** report. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeffry Guido

(E) jguido@bdcbt.org (O) 301-909-1071 (C) 240-687-5195

5829 Allentown Rd Camp Spring MD 20746

Value on Display... Everyday.





Testimony in Support of HB 179
Income Tax - Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
SUPPORT
January 21, 2021

To: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
From: Shannon Opfer, President CWA MD State Council, President CWA Local 2107

Chair Kaiser and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Union members are hardworking middle class people. We build our State's economy. Everything we do supports our state and economy, whether it is shopping here in Maryland or being a part of new construction making Maryland better.

The Tax Relief bill passed by Congress in 2018 eliminated the ability to deduct Union dues from our Federal tax returns. This may not seem like a huge impact, but for many families it will be.

HB 179 will allow members to deduct their dues from their Maryland tax return, making sure we do not suffer from the "tax relief" bill. Every penny makes a huge difference to working families.

CWA is in SUPPORT of this bill. We ask that the committee votes favorably on it.

Thank you,
Shannon Opfer
President CWA MD State Council
President CWA Local 2107



Communications
Workers of America
Local 2108 AFL-CIO
10782 Rhode Island Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Office Phone 301-595-2108
Fax 301-595-2412
www.cwalocal2108.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marilyn Irwin, President

As you know, prior to passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Union dues were allowed as a tax credit on the Maryland State Income Tax of union members who live in our state. Because the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 deleted that tax credit for Federal taxes, it was no longer allowed as a State tax credit.

HB 179 corrects this problem, thereby allowing union members to deduct their dues from the taxable income for State Taxes, as they were previously able to do. This bill affects all union members who reside in Maryland, and helps to lessen their tax burden.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 179, and I ask that your committee vote FAVORABLY on it. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Irwin

President



Education Association of Charles County

105 Centennial Street · Suite H
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 392-0150 · Fax: (301) 392-0151

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of House Bill 179
Income Tax-Subtraction Modification- Union Dues
Ways and Means Committee
January 21, 2021

To: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
From: Linda McLaughlin, Education Association of Charles County (EACC) President

Dear Delegate Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you today to rise in support of House Bill 179, which would allow a subtraction modification on state income taxes for union dues. As the President of the Education Association of Charles County (EACC), I speak for over 2,000 certificated educators (teachers, librarians, school counselors, vice principals, principals, specialists and more) who are union members that this bill would favorably impact.

All our educators- teachers, school counselors, administrators, resource teachers, Special Educators, so many more- **ALL** educators no matter their job title- have been on the front lines since the beginning of the pandemic last spring, and we have made sure that education is still occurring for our students despite the physical shutdown of our buildings. The support staff in Charles County have also been working nonstop, and they are also union members (AFSCME).

HB 179 would help both certificated and support staff union members to be allowed to deduct their dues from the taxable income on their state taxes. Not only would it help people financially, but it would show appreciation for our education professionals, who have worked tirelessly to make sure our students are learning, educational resources provided and even food is made available to families in our communities.

I urge you all to support House Bill 179. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, *"The time is always right to do right."* This is what is right for our union members, who cannot deduct union dues on their federal income taxes as of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This penalizes our workforce and is an unfair tax structure. This bill would correct that at the state level and would allow for deduction of union dues on state income taxes, as has been done in other states. It is the right thing to do.

I implore the Ways and Means Committee to vote favorably on this bill.

President, Education Association of Charles County
105 Centennial St, Suite H
La Plata, MD 20646
(office) 301.392.0150
(fax) 301.392.0151



Eastern Atlantic States REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

801 West Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21230 | Phone: 443-915-0462 | EASCARPENTERS.ORG

HB 179 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Kaiser and esteemed members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Please accept this letter in strong support of HB 179, which helps our working women and men offset some of their job-related costs in this difficult economy by allowing for a deduction for union dues.

Our union represents over 41,000 of the best trained and most skilled construction workers in the country, including close to 3,000 in the State of Maryland. As you may be aware, prior to 2018, union employees were able to deduct some of their union costs on their federal returns as unreimbursed employee business expenses. However, under President Trump's tax reforms of 2018, union dues / expenses and all employee expenses can no longer be deducted through 2025, regardless of whether or not the employee itemizes deductions.

House Bill 179 goes a long way in making these workers whole, by essentially reinstating this deduction through the Maryland tax code, as opposed to the federal tax code.

This is a smart, blue-collar tax cut at a time when our workers need it most.

For the forgoing reasons, we thank Delegate Luedtke for authoring this important legislation, and we ask for a favorable committee report.



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES,
MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 92820
Washington, DC 20090

I.A.T.S.E. Local 22
1810 Hamlin Street, NE
Washington, DC 20018-2459

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21, 2021

To: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: David McIntyre, President I.A.T.S.E. Local 22

Chair and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, the officers and membership of I.A.T.S.E. Local 22 strongly support HB 179. For over a hundred years unions have held tax exempt status in an attempt to level the playing field for the working class. Stripping union members of the ability to write off their dues was clearly another attempt at tipping the scales in favor of big corporations. Unions play a critical role in the lives of workers and not allowing those workers this crumb is a clear assault on the middle class. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was such a poorly written, ill thought-out piece of legislation that voting to write the wrongs it created should be common sense. I.A.T.S.E. Local 22 asks that the committee vote **FAVORABLY** on **HB 179**.



David McIntyre

President I.A.T.S.E. Local 22

Mid Atlantic Studio Mechanics and Broadcast Technicians

I.A.T.S.E. Local 487

OFFICE LOCATION: 2301 Russell St., Baltimore, MD 21230

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 16315, Baltimore, MD 21210



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB179

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues

January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and Members of the House Ways and Means
Committee

Edward Hohman
President

FROM: David O'Ferrall, Business Manager, Local 487, I.A.T.S.E.

Paul Thomas
*Vice President
Southern Region*

Local 487, I.A.T.S.E. supports House Bill 179. This Bill will show that Maryland supports the working men, women and kin who are Union members by allowing them to deduct their Union dues in determining their Maryland Adjusted Gross income.

Michael Key
*Vice President
Northern Region*

This deduction will be beneficial twofold, first it will allow hard working Marylanders to receive credit for supporting the Unions that support them. The money they pay in dues ensures that their Locals have the ability to fight, not just for them and their families, but working people across the State on a daily basis. It allows Unions to do good works in their communities and support not just their members but so many others. Secondly, this will help encourage Union membership making not just the Unions stronger and thereby elevating the work standards for every single Marylander.

Ellen Popiel
Secretary/Treasurer

David M. O'Ferrall
Business Agent

Unions have brought so much to this Country, better wages, job-related health coverage and guaranteed pensions are just a few of the accomplishments. This Bill will show the State's acknowledgement of the good work of these individuals who will benefit from this the most. We at Local 487 of the I.A.T.S.E. wholehearted support House Bill 179 and ask that the committee vote Favorably on passage.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE 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



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary
PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

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SUITE 200

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800-348-3721
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Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

House Ways and Means Committee On

HB 179 - Income Tax – Subtraction Modification - Union Dues

STRONGLY SUPPORT

January 19, 2021

Dear Madam Chair Kaiser and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony supporting House Bill 179.

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. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland and reside in District 7 of Baltimore County.

In writing to support this bill I would like to point out some of the citizens of our state who have been negatively impacted by the loss of this deduction on their federal tax returns. Teachers, police officers, fire fighters, TSA agents, and the construction trades all “essential personnel” represent hard working Marylanders who do their jobs every day, even during a pandemic to make life better for the citizens of our Maryland. The loss of this deduction has had a negative impact financially on these citizens.

In this era of targeted tax cuts for the wealthy it is appropriate for Maryland to recognize the effect of these cuts on the working men and woman of our state by including this deduction in our tax code.

In closing, I want to reiterate IBEW Local 24's strong support for HB 179.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2



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

January 21, 2021

To: Ways and Means Committee

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

Subject: HB 179 income Tax-Subtraction Modification-union Dues

Position: favorable report

Dear, Honorable Anne Kaiser, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am the Business Manager of the IBEW L.U.307 out of Cumberland MD.

I support the HB 179 and ask the committee to also give it a favorable report. The members have to contribute to working assessments and dues to keep the union strong which protects there rights for safe working conditions and also to provide benefits to their families with health care and a pension after a long career in the trades. We ask for the committee to support HB179. Being able to write these expenses off would be a great help to the membership and their families.

Once again we strongly Support HB 179 and ask the committee to give it a favorable vote

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rodney Rice
IBEW L.U. 307
Business Manager



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
From: Aaron Bast, Business Managers at Ironworkers local 5

Dear members of the House Ways and means Committee,

I'm writing **in support of HB 179**, a bill that can help working families across all industries. Our local represents 1,233 members and their families in Maryland and growing.

Our members are guaranteed benefits such as healthcare and retirement, proper safety precautions and general good labor practices because of the representation they receive. As a result, we can set the best safety and employee standards not only for our members, but for all workers in our industry. In addition, at our local, we also offer apprenticeship programs for our members that train them to become Journeymen on a path to a career that can provide family-sustaining wages.

Supporting tax-exemptions for union dues would allow for more workers to benefit from these programs. It will help ensure promotion of upward-mobility, and that workers can feel more comfortable about their safety on the job site. Being part of our union gives them the confidence that they have a voice representing their best interests.

We encourage the committee to review these merits of our programs and what they bring for our members, and to **support HB 179**.

Sincerely,

Aaron T. Bast
Business Manager/F.S.T



Danny Cessna - President
Clifford Wendricks - Business Manager

George Rice - Vice-President
Dennis McGann - Recording Secretary



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL &
REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**
LOCAL UNION #568
119 SOUTH CENTRE STREET
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND 21502
TELEPHONE: (301) 777-7433
FACSIMILE: (301) 777-5086

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
From: Clifford Wendricks, FS & BM at Ironworkers local 568

Dear members of the House Ways and means Committee,

I'm writing **in support of HB 179**, a bill that can help working families across all industries. Our local represents hundreds of members and their families in Western Maryland and growing.

Our members are guaranteed benefits such as healthcare and retirement, proper safety precautions and general good labor practices because of the representation they receive. As a result, we can set the best safety and employee standards not only for our members, but for all workers in our industry. In addition, at our local, we also offer apprenticeship programs for our members that train them to become Journeymen on a path to a career that can provide family-sustaining wages.

Supporting tax-exemptions for union dues would allow for more workers to benefit from these programs. It will help ensure promotion of upward-mobility, and that workers can feel more comfortable about their safety on the job site. Being part of our union gives them the confidence that they have a voice representing their best interests.

We encourage the committee to review these merits of our programs and what they bring for our members, and to **support HB 179**.

Sincerely,



Clifford Wendricks
Business Manager
Iron Workers Local 568
119 S. Centre Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

*"All that is necessary for
the triumph of evil is that
good men do nothing"*



**LOCAL NO. 10
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
ELEVATOR
CONSTRUCTORS**

**Affiliated with the AFL-CIO
9600 MARTIN LUTHER KING
HIGHWAY
LANHAM, MARYLAND
20706
(301) 459-0497
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Business Manager
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Matthew Rusch
Business Representative
Jeremy Fox
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Vance Ayres
Recording Secretary
Matt Guthrie
Financial Secretary
Bruce Zembower
Treasurer

January 19, 2021

**Testimony in Support of HB 179
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
To be held on January 21, 2021**

Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to you today in reference to **support** HB 179. As you know, when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was passed it eliminated as a tax credit the deduction of union dues. This has impacted our membership by eliminating personal exemptions and making it less beneficial to itemize deductions.

We are asking that the Committee vote **favorably** to correct this problem and allow our union members to deduct their dues from the taxable income for State taxes.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Local #10

John J. O'Connor, Jr.
Business Manager

JJO/epv

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL 37

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

Chartered May 1, 1900



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*

Richard A. Fuller, Sr.
*Treasurer and Business
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Guard
Guy A. Burger

Testimony in Support of HB 179

Income Tax- Subtraction Modification- Union Dues

January 21, 2021

To: Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Robert Holsey, Business Manager International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 37

Chairwoman Kaiser and members of the committee, I write to you today in strong support of HB 179.

On behalf of the 1500 members of IUOE Local 37 I am asking for a **favorable vote** on House Bill 179.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 passed by the Republican members of Congress and President Trump was a terrible Bill for the members of Local 37.

As you know, our members along with every Union member in this state lost the ability to deduct Union dues on their Federal tax returns. The current tax treatment of union dues is not only fundamentally unfair but also inconsistent with basic income tax principles. HB 179 will allow Union members to deduct union dues, increasing tax fairness for the hard-working men and woman of Local 37.

On behalf of myself and the members of Local 37, I ask for your support for House bill 179. This legislation is so important for our members and their families especially during these difficult times, it is imperative to keep money in our workers pockets.

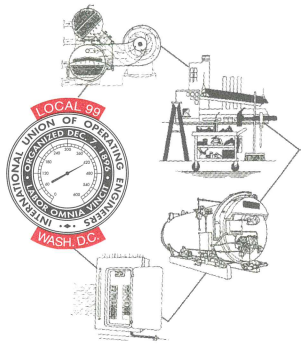
Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and again I ask for a **favorable vote** on this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert A Holsey, Jr.

Business Manager

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 37



JOINT APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE

OF THE

International Union of Operating Engineers

Local 99, 99-A, 99-C, 99-O

Affiliated With The AFL-CIO

9315 Largo Drive West, Suite 200 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Phone: 202-337-0099

Donald P. Havard
Chairman

Mark Crockett
Secretary-Treasurer
Associated Employer
Crockett Facilities Services

TRUSTEES:

Raymond D. Stack
Local 99, I.U.O.E.
Local 99, I.U.O.E.

Kathy Card
Associated Employer
Brookfield Properties

Dean Blake
Local 99, I.U.O.E.
Brookfield Properties

Charlotte Wilson
Associated Employer
Cushman & Wakefield U.S., Inc.

Karl Buhner
Local 99, I.U.O.E.
EMCOR Government Services

Derek Brauner
Associated Employer
Marriott International

Elisha "Seth" Ensor
Local 99, I.U.O.E.
Jacobs Technology

Pat Baldwin
Associated Employer
EMCOR Government Services

Charles Hanko
Associated Employer
Trademasters Service

TESTOMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21st, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

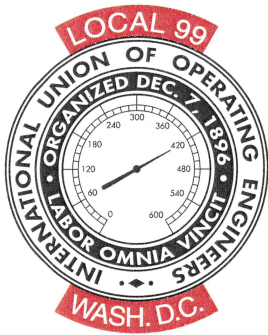
Local 99 represents more than 2700 members who live in Maryland, me being one of them. I am writing to support the passing of HB 179 Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Union Dues. These are trying times and our members need every benefit available to them. Passing HB 179 would benefit my members and your fellow Marylanders. I urge you to pass this tax credit for all Union workers.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Brandt
Training Coordinator
International Union of Operating Engineers
Local 99



Mark R. Brandt
Training Coordinator



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Local 99, 99-A, 99-C, 99-O

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

Engineer Center

9315 Largo Drive West, Suite 200, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

(202) 337-0099

Donald P. Havard
Business Manager

Warren L. Watt
President

Frank M. Brown, Jr.
Vice President

Raymond D. Stack
Treasurer

Mark P. Sexton
*Recording Corresponding
Secretary*

Frank C. Barile
Financial Secretary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

Local 99 represent more than 2700 members who live in Maryland, myself being one of them. I am writing to support the passing of HB 179 Income Tax subtraction Modification- Union dues. These are trying time; and our members need every benefit available to them. Passing HB179 would benefit my members and your fellow Marylanders, I urge you to pass this tax credit for all Union workers.

Sincerely

Frank Barile, Business Representative & Financial Secretary.

International Union of Operating Engineers

Local 99

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



PLUMBERS - STEAMFITTERS - SPRINKLER FITTERS
- PIPE WELDERS - HVAC SERVICE TECHS

7050 Oakland Mills Rd Ste.180
Columbia, MD 21046
Office: (410) 290-3890
Fax: (410) 290-3892

Maryland House of Delegate – Ways and Means Committee

TO: Chairwoman Anne Kaiser, and Members of the House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Support HB 179 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 20,000 members and families from United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 179.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 passed by Congress and the Trump Administration gave huge windfalls to the top 1%, while leaving working families with scraps. One of the many ways this legislation hurt working families by eliminating certain tax deductions, such as union dues. While this was federal legislation, this tax credit does not exist at the state level without the federal tax credit.

With working families struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic, HB 179 would offer a little bit of help by allowing for the deduction of union dues from state taxes.

For the reasons mentioned above I ask you to give **HB 179 a favorable report.**

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



PLUMBERS - STEAMFITTERS - SPRINKLER FITTERS
- PIPE WELDERS - HVAC SERVICE TECHS

**7050 Oakland Mills Rd Ste.180
Columbia, MD 21046
Office: (410) 290-3890
Fax: (410) 290-3892**



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues
January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Patricia M. O'Donnell, SAG-AFTRA Washington - Mid Atlantic Local Executive Director
DATE: January 19, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the roughly 4,735 union members of the Washington – Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA to urge you to support House Bill 179, “Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues” that is set for hearing before your Committee on January 21, 2021. The SAG-AFTRA Washington - Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA represents actors, performers, voice over artists, announcers, disc jockeys, television and radio news broadcasters, sound recording artists, and many others in entertainment and media, with nearly half of the entire local membership residing in and/or working in the state of Maryland.

Unions provide their members with an abundance of resources to ensure members have the best terms and conditions of employment as possible, such as negotiating and enforcing collective bargaining agreements, providing professional development/training, supporting legislation that advances employees’ rights in the workplace, and providing outplacement resources. Like other professional organizations, union dues allow the union as an organization to provide these resources to its members and are a cost of the member being a part of this professional organization that is needed for his/her career. Providing union dues the same tax treatment as other fees that are required to maintain professional memberships, certifications, and/or licensing for one to do their job is not only fair, but the right thing to do for Maryland’s workforce. Additionally, given the current economic climate, HB 179 would provide financial relief to union members in Maryland and allow them the opportunity to put more money back into the state’s economy. Passing HB 179 will show the legislature’s support for Maryland’s workers.

The Washington - Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA strongly supports this bill and encourages you to vote favorably in support of HB 179.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. O'Donnell

PO: apr

Patricia M. O'Donnell, Washington – Mid Atlantic Local Executive Director
pat.odonnell@sagaftra.org • 301-545-0021 (Home Office) • 240-731-1246 (Mobile) • SAGAFTRA.org/wma
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
7735 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 950, Bethesda, MD 20814
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



**International Association of Sheet Metal, Air,
Rail & Transportation Workers,
Local Union 100— Sheet Metal Division**
Affiliated with AFL-CIO

Richard D. LaBille, III
Business Manager/President
Russell K. Robinson
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

January 19, 2021

We strongly support HB 179.

Madam Chair and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 179- Income Tax Credit-Agency, Shop fee and Union Dues. My name is Thomas Killeen Business Representative and Legislative Director for SMART (Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation) Local Union 100. I represent 2,100 working men and women that reside in the State of Maryland.

Because of the changes in the 2017 Federal tax system Agency Shop Fees, Union Dues, Specific Tools, Uniforms for police and in some cases guns the police may use to protect society have been eliminated in the itemized deductions for miscellaneous expenses. In the past individuals itemizing these expenses listed above on their Federal taxes could also items these same expenses on their Maryland taxes but because of the new Federal tax law this is no longer possible.

The passing of House Bill 179 would bring back the itemized deduction for my 2,100 members and many other Marylanders (Teachers, Firefighters, Police, Correctional Officers and Skilled Construction Workers) that build and maintain our State. When SB 179 becomes State law it will reinstate the tax credit, at the State level, putting money back into Marylanders pockets and therefore into our economy. I see it as a win/win, I hope you will too.

We ask for favorable report on HB 179.

Sincerely,

Thomas Killeen
Bus. Rep. & Legislative Director
SMART Local Union 100

LARRY KASECAMP
Legislative Director

THOMAS CAHILL
Assistant Director

JOHNNY WALKER
Secretary



11505 Caboose Road, SW
Frostburg, MD 21532
PH: 301-697-2695
utusldmd@gmail.com

ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
176 Conduit St., Suite 206
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

January 21, 2021

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 430
VACANT

Local 600
JASON WEAVER

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
KENZELL CRAWFORD

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949
ERIC BILSON

The Honorable Chairwoman Anne Kaiser and
Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB-179

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) we urge your committee to support HB-179 "*Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues.*"

This bill creates a tax credit against the State income tax for an individual who pays specified union dues.

This tax credit was available to Marylanders in the past until the passage of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This law eliminated union dues as a qualified deductible expense for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Unfortunately, Maryland law states a taxpayer can itemize an expense for State income tax purposes only if the expense can be claimed as a federal itemized deduction. So, the effects of the Act triggered a consequence to Marylanders that the General Assembly did not have a voice in.

HB-179 corrects this unintended consequence by returning the ability of a taxpayer for State income tax purposes to claim an income tax credit for the amount of union dues that previously qualified as a miscellaneous itemized deduction.

We urge a favorable report for HB-179

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry", written in dark ink.

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division



Plumbers Local Union No. 5

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO

5891 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746 • Telephone: (301) 899-7861 • Fax: (301) 899-7868

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Michael Canales, Business Agent, United Association Local Union No. 5 Plumbers and Gasfitters

Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, I support HB 179, The Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues. Countless numbers of Maryland Residents are Dues paying members of local unions. The passing of HB 179 would allow these Maryland residents the opportunity to invest more in their families and local communities.

Our members of UA Local Union No.5, Plumbers and Gasfitters are hardworking, productive members of society and should be permitted to deduct union dues on State Taxes. Businesses deduct expenses for daily required operations, which allow the businesses to invest more into the business. HB 179 allows Maryland Residents to invest more in their families and local communities which makes for a stronger Maryland.

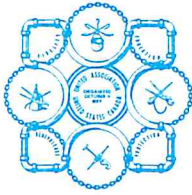
It Is my hope that you and members of the House Ways and Means Committee vote FAVORABLY on HB 179, and lessen the tax burden for Maryland's hardworking and productive union members.

Respectfully Submitted,

UA Local 5 Plumbers and Gasfitters

Michael S Canales Jr.

Business Rep. and Organizer



Plumbers Local Union No. 5

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO

5891 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746 • Telephone: (301) 899-7861 • Fax: (301) 899-7868

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 18, 2021

TO: Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Lou Spencer, Assistant Business Manager, United Association Local Union No. 5 -- Plumbers and Gasfitters.

Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, please know that I support HB 179, the Income Tax Subtraction Modification for Union Dues.

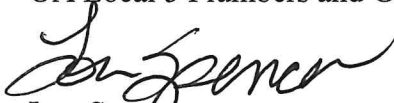
Our members, the 2,000 members of UA Local Union No. 5, Plumbers and Gasfitters are hardworking, productive Plumbers and Gasfitters, most are residents of this State and should be permitted to deduct union dues on State Taxes; in much the same manner businesses deduct expenses related to business operations.

The CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, specifically the DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, in Article 43. States, in part; "...the Legislature ought to encourage the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the extension of a judicious system of general education, the promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and the general melioration of the condition of the People... [underlining added by this writer for emphasis.] I suggest the best way to accomplish this, for Maryland's tradespeople, is through union membership, as it is a pathway to decent wages, self-funded Apprenticeship training, self-funded Medical Plans, self-funded Retirement Saving plans, etc. The State should encourage union membership, so its tradespeople remain free and independent and enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and allowing for this tax deduction is a sure way to accomplish these objectives.

It is my sincere hope you and the members of the House Ways and Means Committee vote FAVORABLY on HB 179, and lessen the tax burden for Maryland's hardworking, productive union members.

Respectfully Submitted,

UA Local 5 Plumbers and Gasfitters



Lou Spencer

Assistant Business Manager



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS
UA LOCAL UNION 486
8100 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 200
Baltimore, Maryland 21236
Phone: 410-866-4380
Fax: 410-933-3515
www.UALocal486.com

William L. Welsh
Business Manager

Gerald W. Jackson
Assistant Business Manager

Gary G. Glab
Financial Secretary

Andrew R. Gannon III
Business Agent

Harry M. Schleicher Jr.
Business Agent

Nicholas W. Cummings
Business Agent

Todd E. Eckley
Recruiter

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB – 179

INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – UNION DUES

JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser – Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

Madam Chair and members of this committee,

Due to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Union Dues were eliminated as a tax credit for Federal Income Taxes. This law hurt working families across this great nation, more importantly it hurt the working families in Maryland because current Maryland law states that if the tax credit for Federal Taxes doesn't exist, then it can't exist for State taxes either. HB 179 corrects this problem and allows union members to deduct their union dues from the taxable income for State Taxes.

THIS BILL AFFECTS US ALL !

Respectfully,

Gerald W. Jackson Sr.
Secretary –Treasurer, Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO
Assistant Business Manager Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 486

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2ND FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

HB 179 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Kaiser and honorable members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We write today to thank Delegate Eric Luedtke for sponsoring HB179, and to ask this committee for a favorable report.

This is common sense legislation for workers, many of whom have been economically crushed by the COVID-19 shutdowns, and the looming recession.

Specifically, this bill is a tax cut to help cover the cost of union dues, which are job related expenses, that are necessary for workplace representation. In addition, these dues help offset the costs of training the next generation of highly-skilled workers through some of the finest apprenticeship training programs to be found anywhere.

This bill also signals that Maryland stands with its workers through this difficult pandemic, at a time when the federal government is slashing benefits for workers and their ability to defray some of the workplace costs, as was just done through the 2018 tax reforms.

In conclusion, this is a good bill and a huge step in the right direction for Maryland workers, and we respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.

Very truly yours,

Daniel W Loveless
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary Treasurer

DANIEL W. LOVELESS
BUSINESS MANAGER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER

CHRISTOPHER M. MADELLO
ASSISTANT
BUSINESS MANAGER

SEAN T. STRASER
BUSINESS AGENT

GREGORY L. DAVIS
BUSINESS AGENT

SIDNEY O. BONILLA
BUSINESS AGENT

TIMOTHY L. BIGGS
BUSINESS AGENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

January 21, 2021
Ways & Means Committee
Maryland House

TO: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair,
Hon. Alonzo Washington, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FR: Jason Chorpenning
President, United Food & Commercial Workers International Union Local 27
21 West Road, Towson, MD 21204

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the 23,000 working men and women represented by United Food & Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 27, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 179.

The UFCW Local 27 is proud to represent the hard-working men and women in retail food, food processing, manufacturing, distribution, gaming, health care and other industries. Our members help form the backbone of Maryland's middle class and have been at the forefront in providing essential services to all Marylanders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These are good-paying, union jobs in an area that has a higher unemployment rate than the state average. For years, union dues were deductible from federal taxes however, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) eliminated this deduction.

This has created an unfair tax system where big corporations can fully write off the costs of management expenses, legal costs, collective bargaining, and even union-busting campaigns; but, workers are no longer able to deduct the costs of the dues they pay in support of their own representation. Unions bargain for wages and benefits, negotiate working conditions, represent workers in arbitrations, and engage in a number of other activities that benefit their members' lives and improve working conditions.

Not only do union members benefit from these efforts; union's raise wages for all workers; including noncollege graduates, millennials, people of color, and women.

There is a long-standing principle that taxable income should not include the costs of earning that income. The TCJA runs in direct contrast to that principle. HB 174 is a step in the right direction of readdressing this mistake and will benefit hundreds of thousands of middle-class Marylanders.

I urge the Committee to SUPPORT HB 179.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179
Income Tax Credit – Agency Shop Fees and Union Dues
January 21, 2021

To: Hon. Anne Kaiser, Chair and members of the House Ways and Means Committee

**From: Gino Renne, President, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO,
International Vice President, UFCW**

On behalf of over 8,000 members of UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, I offer our strong **support** on Bill HB 179: Income Tax Credit - Agency Shop Fees and Union Dues.

While the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) was a windfall for the very rich, Maryland workers were left behind. Union dues were eliminated as a tax credit for Federal Income Taxes and because state law dictates that we follow federal law on itemized tax credits, it effectively eliminated the State tax credit for union dues, too. This takes money out of the pockets of people who need it most.

Tax cuts should go to the middle class who are more likely to spend every dollar they get and boost the local economy, but that is not what TCJA did. Instead, the wealthiest Americans were the ones that benefited from the Act.

Union members spend their money on Main Street not Wall Street and we should do all we can to ensure that they have more money in their pockets. Studies show that consumer spending drives 68 percent of economic growth, so despite what others say, middle class tax cuts are what create jobs, not the bogus TCJA.

This bill will help address the injustices of the TCJA and restore some economic fairness by giving union members a tax credit against their state income tax for their union dues.

I respectfully ask for a **favorable** report on this legislation.