

# Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



## Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

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

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

### TESTIMONY

CHRIS MADELLO, UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602

HB1203, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – PRIVATE–SECTOR EMPLOYERS – RIGHT  
TO WORK

UNFAVORABLE

Honorable members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

Please accept this testimony in the strongest possible opposition to HB1203, the so called "Right to Work" legislation.

Nothing in this legislation empowers workers to work, or protects any worker rights. Rather, this legislation undermines the very rights that the bill proports to protect, by separating those workers from the unions who protect and, through union organizing and collective bargaining agreements, enable those rights.

It is irresponsible for lawmakers to suggest or legislate who may or may not join a union, when they may or may not do so, or what the terms of that work must be. Those decisions are rights, protected by law and by contract through collective bargaining.

In fact, collective bargaining is the very currency by which worker and employer rights manifest through contract negotiations. It is a collaborative process, of willing parties, that is embedded in American jurisprudence, both in statue and in case law. To effectively outlaw participation and support for that process, as this legislation attempts to do, violates the very rights that this legislation misleadingly suggests.

It is a dangerous and cynical proposal that must not be allowed to come to pass.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable committee report.

CHRISTOPHER M. MADELLO  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY TREASURER

SIDNEY O. BONILLA  
ASSISTANT  
BUSINESS MANAGER

SEAN T. STRASER  
BUSINESS AGENT

GREGORY L. DAVIS  
BUSINESS AGENT

TIMOTHY L. BIGGS  
BUSINESS AGENT

ROBERT T. GIFFORD  
BUSINESS AGENT