



***Musicians' Association of  
Metropolitan Baltimore***

*1055 Taylor Avenue, Suite 218  
Baltimore, MD 21286*

Phone: 410-337-7277  
Fax: 410-337-7279  
Email: [office@musiciansunion.org](mailto:office@musiciansunion.org)  
Website: [www.musiciansunion.org](http://www.musiciansunion.org)

***Michael Decker  
President***

***Mary C. Plaine  
Secretary-Treasurer***

March 3, 2022

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203  
Labor and Employment - Right to Work  
March 8, 2022**

TO: Hon. CT Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

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

On behalf of our nearly 500 members, The Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore strongly objects to HB 1203 and asks that the House Economic Matters Committee vote NOT to support it.

"Right to Work" is a misnomer. RTW is simply a political strategy to take away workers' rights. The legislation should be entitled "Right to work for less by weakening the ability of working people to have good wages, decent benefits, and healthy working conditions."

One of the claims that advocates of RTW laws spew, that employees are forced to join a union, is already prohibited by federal law. RTW advocates spread lies because they know the truth is not on their side.

Any attempt to undercut the ability of working people to form and maintain unions weakens the middle class and a strong economic base for the State of Maryland. Studies have shown that states that have well-supported unionized work forces have citizens who earn more money than states with "right to starve" laws in place. Twelve of the fifteen states with the worst pay gap between men and women are right to work states. Why would the Maryland state legislature want to "fix" a problem that does not exist?

Again, Local 40-543 urges members of the House Economic Matters Committee to vote AGAINST House Bill 1203.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Plaine  
Secretary-Treasurer



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

Patrick Moran - President

---

**Testimony**  
**HB 1203 – Labor and Employment - Private-Sector Employers - Right to Work**  
**Economic Matters**  
**March 8, 2021**  
**Oppose**

AFSCME strongly opposes, HB 1203. The bill would institute a “Right to Work” on Maryland private sector employees.

1961 Dr. Martin Luther King said, “in our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved the wages and working conditions of everyone.... Wherever these laws have passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped.”

This legislation would create a right-to-work-for-less: less wages, less benefits, less time off to spend with family and community. It is an abomination to the concepts of economic and social justice and fairness.

We strongly urge the committee to vote down 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

Find us: [afscmemd.org](http://afscmemd.org)  
Like us: [facebook.com/AFSCMEMD](https://facebook.com/AFSCMEMD)  
Follow/Tweet us: [@afscmemaryland](https://twitter.com/afscmemaryland)

Marietta English  
PRESIDENT

Kenya Campbell  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony submitted to  
The Maryland House Economic Matters Committee  
HB 1203 – Labor and Employment - Private-Sector Employers - Right to Work  
March 8, 2022**

**OPPOSE**

Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT-Maryland), which represents more than 20,000 educators, government, and healthcare workers across Maryland, I urge you to oppose HB 1203 – the so called “Right to Work” bill, that is nothing less than an attack on America’s middle class.

The goal of this bill is to weaken the collective bargaining rights of Maryland’s workers. By doing so, it will work to eliminate the strong middle class in our state. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), workers in right to work states earn an average of \$6,000 less per year and are also less likely to be offered health insurance and retirement security.

Evidence shows, public health is better overall in states without right to work laws. The United Health Foundation (UHF), which publishes America’s Health Rankings, reports that in 2016, eight of the top ten healthiest states were free from this law, while nine of the ten unhealthiest states were right to work.

Furthermore, the BLS reports the rate of fatalities in the workplace is 54 percent higher in right to work states.

An important issue to Maryland, as we work to reform the education system in our state – funding for public schools is \$3,300 less per student in right to work states. This drives away good teachers and staff, making right to work states most of the lowest performing in the nation.

The right to work law is not just - right to work for less money and benefits, it also means less safety, less health care and less money for education in our state.

I urge you to oppose HB 1203.

Kenya Campbell  
President

# Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689

2701 Whitney Place, Forestville, Maryland 20747-3457  
Telephone: 301-568-6899 Facsimile: 301-568-0692  
www.atulocal689.org



Raymond N. Jackson  
President & Business Agent  
Keith M. Bullock  
Financial Secretary Treasurer  
Barry D. Wilson  
Recording Secretary  
Romoan C. Bruce  
First Vice President  
Theus R. Jones  
Second Vice President

## **Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689** **HB 1203 - Labor and Employment - Right to Work** **March 4th, 2022**

**TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee**  
**FROM: Brian Wivell, Political & Communications Director, ATU Local 689**

At the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 we represent over 15,000 workers and retirees performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, DASH, and DC Streetcar among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers and an engine for the middle-class of this region. So called “right to work” proposals are an attack on the power of working people and unions. It’s that simple. Proponents of these laws like to claim that they’re protecting the freedom of workers, but their true intentions are to weaken the power of workers to bargain collectively.

It's helpful to understand the racist history of “right to work” proposals and their original intention to divide working people. Right to work laws first popped up in the Jim Crow south as a way to undermine industrial organizing efforts that united working people into multiracial unions. Big businesses realized that they could undermine the unions by preying on the racism of white workers. Vance Muse, one of the main organizers behind the promotion of Right to Work laws in the ‘40s, distributed literature saying, “white women and white men will be forced into organizations [labor unions] with black African apes whom they will have to call ‘brother’ or lose their jobs.” There is no escaping this history.

We also know firsthand that “Right to Work” isn’t understood by workers as being about their freedom, but about a state being anti-union and opposing their organizing efforts. One of the first things we hear in Virginia when we organize workers is “But this is a right to work state? How can we have a union?” When the police kicked us off the premises at Cinder Bed Bus Garage when we were organizing workers in 2018, they said “This is Virginia, this is a Right to Work state.” Both of these comments are nonsensical. Right to work laws have nothing to do with any of those aspects of labor relations. But Right to Work laws are ultimately a signal to the working people of that area whether or not they live in an “anti-union” state. By passing a right to work law, you are telling the working people of your state that the government disapproves of any attempt that you make to work together to improve your conditions.

We encourage all committee members to stand against this anti-union bill.



Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Plumbers & Gas Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters

Steam Fitters

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

## Maryland House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee

Chair: CT Wilson

Vice Chair: Brian M. Crosby

House Bill 1203 Labor and Employment Private Sector Right to Work

Position: **OPPOSE**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council opposes HB 1203. Right to work is not right for MD. In 1947 Congress passed the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947, generally known as the Taft–Hartley Act, over President Harry S. Truman's veto. The act repealed some parts of the Wagner Act, including outlawing the closed shop. Section 14(b) of the Taft–Hartley Act also authorizes individual states (but not local governments, such as cities or counties) to outlaw the union shop and agency shop for employees working in their jurisdictions. Any state law that outlaws such arrangements is known as a right-to-work state. In the early development of the right-to-work policy, segregationist sentiment was used as an argument, as many people in the South felt that it was wrong for blacks and whites to belong to the same unions. Vance Muse, one of the early developers of the policy in Texas, used that argument in the development of anti-union laws in Texas in the 1940's. Mississippi adopted right to work in 1954. It has been and continues to be the poorest state in the country. The U.S. median income is \$62,843 with person's in poverty at 11.4% Mississippi has a median income of \$45,081 with poverty at 19.6%. Maryland is the wealthiest state in the U.S. with a median income of \$84,805 and poverty at 9%. Thank you.

We urge the committee for an unfavorable vote.

Respectfully,

Jeffry Guido - Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council

**Value on Display... Everyday.**





# BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN

## District of Columbia — State Legislative Board

### Amtrak / MARC / VRE



#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION HB 1203

#### Labor and Employment – Right to Work

March 8, 2022

#### Crew Bases

Pittsburg, PA

Huntington, WV

Baltimore, MD

Washington, DC

Manassas, VA

Charlottesville, VA

Fredericksburg, VA

Richmond, VA

Raleigh, NC

Charlotte, NC

Florence, SC

TO: Honorable CT Wilson, Chairman  
House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Herbert Harris, Jr  
Chairman / State Representative  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen

We strongly encourage the Economic Matters Committee oppose HB 1203: Labor and Employment – Right to Work.

HB 1203 “Right to Work” (RTW) is an attempt to severely weaken or eliminate labor unions in Maryland and their ability to protect workers through collective bargaining. Proponents of RTW laws claim to be protecting workers against being forced to join a union. The fact is federal law makes it illegal and prohibits a worker from being forced to join a union.

Collective bargaining provides living wages, healthcare benefits, and retirement security that protect working families through good and tough times. Maryland should not limit its ability to attract skilled workers and develop a world-class future workforce by becoming a RTW states.

RTW undermines the ability of labor unions to meet the expenses incurred organizing, bargaining, and enforcing negotiated labor contracts. RTW encourages workers to opt out of membership dues, but the labor union must still represent those non-paying members. This means if an employer mistreats a worker not in the union. The union must represent the non-paying worker regardless of the time and cost of the union representation.

Most importantly, non-paying workers receive all the wage increases and benefits negotiated by the labor union but make NO contributions.

HB 1203 also endangers safety and health standards protecting workers on the job. RTW laws weaken workers’ rights to implement and maintain safety and health programs that strengthen workplace safety and health standards. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 58% higher in RTW states.

**A Division of the Rail Conference — International Brotherhood of Teamsters**

Finally, HB 1203 would contribute to unprecedented economic erosion for working families in Maryland. All the future benefits from investments in education, training, and work-force development would be lost to the state for generations because of RTW.

Workers in RTW states make an average \$7,443 a year less than workers in other states. Statistically, workers in RTW states have the lowest economic indicators in the country. Maryland should not allow working families to be dragged to the bottom by RTW.

Again, I encourage you and members of the Economic Matters Committee oppose HB 1203.



# The Baltimore Teachers Union

---



AFT 340 AFL-CIO  
Seton Business Park  
5800 Metro Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203 Labor and Employment – Right to Work March 8th, 2022

**TO: Hon. CT Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee**

**FROM: Diamonté Brown, President of the Baltimore Teachers Union**

Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. On behalf of the 7,000 members of the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU), we strongly oppose HB 1203, the so called “Right to Work” legislation.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2017 in Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, that states and public sector unions may no longer collect agency fees from nonconsenting employees, this bill is redundant and a tool for management to intimidate workers from acting collectively.

“Right to Work” laws have been implemented in many states, studied across the country for years, and the results paint a grim picture. Union and nonunion workers alike in these states earn [lower wages](#) than in states who did not implement these laws, and the legislation [did not result](#) in job growth. Furthermore, legislation like HB 1203 seeks to discourage folks from acting collectively to better their working conditions, which is bad for democracy and citizenship as a whole. Unionized workers are [more likely to vote, be politically active](#), and contribute to charity. Unions are among the very few groups in the state and country who [represent middle and working class interests](#) in government. Union members are also parents, and decades of research has demonstrated that children with parents who have job security, better health care, and superior wages perform better in school, so this is also an educational justice issue.

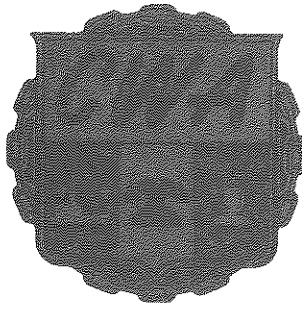
Finally, by discouraging participation in unions, larger groups of nonunion workers will receive the benefits of collectively bargained wages, benefits, protections, and free representation without putting forward the money that made negotiating for these improvements possible. By allowing a growing number of workers a free ride, the resources available for collective bargaining would decrease, and therefore the overall power of the union to support and protect its workers (both contributors and free riders alike).

For these reasons, **BTU strongly urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report for HB 1203.**

Sincerely,

Diamonté Brown, President  
Baltimore Teachers Union





## **CWA MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL**

**"EFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH POLITICAL ACTION"**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203**

**Labor and Employment - Right to Work**

**March 8, 2022**

To: Hon. CT Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Shannon Opfer, President CWA Maryland State Council, President CWA Local 2107

Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

Right to Work laws have nothing to do with a person's right to work and everything to do with destroying people's ability to organize and undermining a Union's bargaining power. Research shows Right to Work laws have no positive impact on job growth. Right to Work is Wrong for Maryland!

On average, wages in Right to Work states are 12% lower than wages in states without Right to Work laws. Obviously this lowers the Median household income. Less money in households in a state means less money being spent in that state.

Right to Work states tend to have lower rates of health insurance coverage as well, which can lead to the state being responsible for more families with no health insurance. Right to Work states have a 36% higher than average number of discrimination charges filed with the EEOC.

Right to work is really saying you have the right to work for less. Please stand with Labor and stand against Right to Work. The members, retirees, and officers of the Communications Workers of America stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to this bill.

Shannon J Opfer

President CWA Maryland State Council  
President CWA Local 2107

## Mid Atlantic Studio Mechanics and Broadcast Technicians

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

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

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203  
Labor and Employment - - Right to Work  
March 8, 2022**



TO: Hon. CT Wilson, Chair and members of the House Economic Matters  
Committee

FROM: David O’Ferrall, Business Agent

**STRONGLY OPPOSE**

**Paul Thomas**  
*President*

“Right to Work” laws in Maryland would only give employers the “right to pay less”! Unions fight for the rights of workers, not only to earn fair wages but also to be treated fairly. A “Right to Work” law would undermine those efforts and allow employers to exploit workers’ fears of reprisals and pay them less and treat them with less than the respect they deserve.

**Justin Unger**  
*Vice President  
Southern Region*

“Right to Work” does not guarantee jobs and it does nothing to protect jobs. “Right to Work” weakens every individual's opportunity to earn a living wage. The average worker—unionized or not—working in a right-to-work state earns approximately \$1,500 less per year than a similar worker in a state without such a law, according to a study by the Economic Policy Institute. The Economic Policy Institute report also comes to the conclusion that “ The wage penalty for non-unionized workers is 3.0%, and the benefit penalty is 2.8 percentage points and 5.3 percentage points for health and pension benefits, respectively. Our results suggest that proposals advance RTW laws likely come at the expense of workers’ wages and benefits, both within and outside of unions.”

**Len Applefeld**  
*Vice President  
Northern Region*

**Ellen Popiel**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**David M. O’Ferrall**  
*Business Agent*

This is about supporting the working men and women of Maryland who rely upon their jobs to support themselves and their families. Thousands of lives will be adversely affected should this bill move forward.

Local 487, I.A.T.S.E. respectfully requests that you vote **unfavorably** on House Bill 1203.

# 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



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

C. SAMUEL CURRERI, President

DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary

JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary

MICHAEL J. McHALE, Business Manager

## OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE  
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

## TESTIMONY IN Opposition OF HB1203

### Labor and Employment – Right to Work

March 2, 2022

To: Hon. CT Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24

March 2, 2022

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong opposition** to HB 1203.

My name is Rico Albacarys and I'm a member and employee of IBEW Local 24 in Baltimore. I have been a dues-paying union member for over a decade and have enjoyed the middle-class lifestyle a good paying union job can afford.

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 1203.

Thank you,

Rico Albacarys



# 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 TO HB 1203 Labor and Employment-Private Sector Employers-Right to Work March 8, 2022

To: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, Brian Crosby, Vice Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Cordelia Evans, member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am urging you to oppose **HB 1203**. This called Right to Work legislation is designed to weaken the rights of workers. From the panhandle, to the eastern shore of Maryland, from Baltimore City, to the southern counties, the hard-working people of the Free state will lose their voice to bargain and to make their workplace safe.

In 1961 Martin Luther King said, “We must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work’. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved the wages and working conditions of everyone”. The opposing view by, Vance Muse, the father of the “right to work” legislation is littered with racial slurs and evil stereotypes. So much so, that they do not need to be repeated, especially in testimony before the General Assembly. I realize that today’s legislation bears no resemblance to this hatred, but the name “Right to Work” will always be associated with these two men. One, a Nobel Peace Prize winner at 35, the other a person whose own grandson described him as a white supremacist and anti-Semite. I ask that no bill, with a name dripping with racism, ever to be brought before the General Assembly, again!

So now we are left with a bill that is designed to take away the workplace representation of your very own constituents. You can debate back and forth whether that helps our citizens or not, but all states with ‘Right to Work’ laws, are at the bottom of the “best states to work in” list. Let us not make a mistake that your constituents will regret soon after this law goes into effect. Let’s “do right” by the men and women who work and live in Maryland. Let us work on bills that protect a worker’s rights, a bill that offers respect and dignity at the jobsite, a bill that works for both business and labor. Let’s focus on your constituents between 9 to 5 and not between or before elections.

In closing, I ask you once again, stop using that negative label and by all means, oppose **HB 1203**, today and in the future.

Thank you.







# 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 TO HB 1203 Labor & Employment-Right to Work March 8, 2022

TO: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee  
FROM: George Hogan, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Chairman Wilson and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you to **oppose** the anti-worker bill, **HB 1203**. As a leader of over 5000 Maryland electricians, I implore you to vote against this legislation that will take away the rights of not only these 5000 constituents, but thousands more Marylanders. I urge you to stand up for the working men and women of our state and oppose this harmful legislation.

Any bill that uses the term “right to work” is an anti-employee bill in disguise. Seeking to take away representation of the sons and daughters of this proud state. This was the origin of “right to work” some 80 years ago when it was proposed by segregationist Vance Muse. Today, some legislators are seeking to divide and conquer through a bill specifically designed to separate workers and those that negotiate for them. If passed, such a bill will eat away at Marylanders pay, benefits and retirement. This point is proven by those current “right to work” states that are all on the bottom of the list when it comes to employee rights. Today's headlines are full with states trying to rescind these laws. I ask that you do not lead Maryland toward such a dark place, where our citizens work for dismal pay and minimal or no health benefits. As a fellow leader, I ask that you strive for what is best for the Maryland worker. Here at Local 26, we cultivate an atmosphere where our signatory contractors are extremely profitable and our members have decent wages, benefits and a pension that allows our members to retire with peace of mind and dignity. I respectfully ask you to do the same, make Maryland succeed for business and labor.

As a lifelong citizen of Maryland and leader one of its largest labor unions, I ask you once again to **oppose** HB 1203. I thank you for your continued support for those men and women that make Maryland a great place to live and work. Thank you





# 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



Chartered 1892  
Washington, D.C.



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203  
Labor and Employment-Right to Work  
March 8, 2022

To: Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Jamell A. Thrower, member, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am urging you to oppose House Bill 1203. This so called Right to Work legislation is designed to weaken the rights of workers. The ability to have a safe work place and for workers' right to bargain collectively is essential to maintain a stable path to the middle class in Maryland. This bill will strip Marylanders of these essential rights in the workplace.

In 1961 Martin Luther King said, "We must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work'. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone." The opposing view belonging to Vance Muse, the creator of the "right to work" legislation contains stereotypes and racial slurs that should not be repeated because it is not only offense to me as a black man but it will also offend many on this committee. While this legislation bears no resemblance to this hatred, but the name "Right to Work" will always be associated with these two men. One, a person that has been described as a white supremacist and an anti-Semite and the other a peacemaker who with others fought for Workers' Rights and Nobel Prize Winner.

Now we are left with a bill that is designed to take away your constituents' ability to have workplace representation. Evidence shows that of the 28 states with Right to Work Laws all rank at the bottom of the **Best States to Work Index** ranking. Maryland currently ranks number 12 on this index and I would hate to the General Assembly enact legislation that adversely affect their ranking. We should be working on legislation that protects Workers' Rights, Workplace Safety and raises Maryland standing on the **Best States to Work Index**.

In closing, I ask you once again, stop using that negative label and by all means, oppose HB 1203, today and in the future. Thank you, Jamell A. Thrower, IBEW Member







# 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 1203 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT -RIGHT TO WORK MARCH 8, 2022

To: Hon.C.T. Wilson, 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 1203** 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 1203 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 1203!** This is not a tough decision, vote unfavorable and stay on the right side of your constituents and the right side of history. Thank you

