



*The Voice of Merit Construction*

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TO: ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

RE: H.B. 1203 - LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYERS - RIGHT TO WORK

POSITION: SUPPORT

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) supports H.B. 1203 which is before you today for consideration. We support the right of all employees to work without having to join a union, or pay union dues or fees, as a condition of employment or as a condition of participating on a construction project procured by a government entity.

The purpose of right to work laws is to guarantee basic fairness for workers. Right to Work laws ensure workers have an opportunity to choose whether union representation makes sense for them. If all or most of the members of a bargaining unit believe union representation will advance their interests, than nothing in a Right to Work law inhibits them from exercising their federally protected right to organize a union and collectively bargain with their employers. Right to Work laws simply allow workers who do not want to participate in the union to opt out of joining the union or paying dues or fees.

Many states have recently enacted Right to Work laws. Currently, 27 states have done so. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports private sector employment grew 5.2% faster (2003-2013) in right to work states than in their non-right to work counterparts. Additionally, the Department of Commerce reports real gross domestic product growth in manufacturing increased 11.8% faster (2002-2012) in right to work states than in non-right to work states.

We believe this legislation will have a positive impact on Maryland, its economic climate and its competitive position with neighboring states which currently are right to work.

On behalf of our over 1,500 business members, we respectfully request you vote to give H.B. 1203 a favorable report.

Marcus Jackson, Director  
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