



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 172**

**Union Dues and Expenses to Influence Collective Bargaining  
January 18, 2022**

**TO: Hon. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and members of the  
House Ways and Means Committee  
FROM: Susan C. Flashman, President**

**Dear Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary and members of the  
House Ways and Means Committee,**

**I am writing to you in Strong Support of HB 172. I am a  
member of Local 26, International Brotherhood of Electrical  
workers and President of the Maryland/ DC Alliance for  
Retired Americans. This chapter represents retired union  
members in Maryland and D.C.**

**As union members we know from previous tax years  
that being able to deduct our union dues eases the tax  
burden on union families. Due to the change in the Federal  
Tax Laws, many voters no longer file a long form and thus  
are unable to file the same for the state of Maryland. We all  
know that this has been a windfall for the state of Maryland  
but has hurt working union families.**

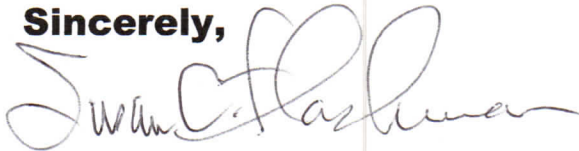
**This bill would level the playing ground for these union  
families, especially in the case of Union Electricians who  
are essential personnel during this pandemic.**

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**The idea of allowing businesses to deduct the cost of “Union Busting” as a business expense is a slap in the face to every tax paying union member. Essentially you are allowing businesses a tax break at the expense of all the tax payers in the state of Maryland.**

**To close, I ask that this committee vote FAVORABLY on this bill.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan C. Flashman".

**Susan C. Flashman, President**