



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

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Secretary-Treasurer***

January 13, 2022

**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: Mary C. Plaine, Secretary-Treasurer, Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore, Local 40-543, American Federation of Musicians

Along with our sisters and brothers in the Maryland State AFL-CIO, the Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore supports HB 172 and asks that the House Ways and Means Committee votes to support this bill and send it on to the full chamber for passage.

HB 172 would allow union members to deduct their union dues from Maryland state taxes, and it would prevent businesses from deducting union busting costs as business expenses on their Maryland taxes, which businesses are currently allowed to do. Union membership is the bedrock of the middle class in the United States. Maryland should not give businesses an unfair financial advantage over employees who want to exercise their right to belong to a union and deduct their union dues from state taxes.

AFM Local 40-543 urges the members of the House Ways and Means Committee to vote FAVORABLY on House Bill 172.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Plaine  
Secretary-Treasurer