



January 30, 2023

Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Delegate C. T. Wilson
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **HB 0494** - Labor and Employment - Private-Sector Employers - Right to Work - **Support**

Dear Delegate Wilson:

This bill would prohibit requiring an employee, as a condition of employment or continued employment, to join or remain a member of a labor organization, pay charges to a labor organization, or pay an amount to a third party (maintenance or agency fees); and prohibits an employer from threatening an employee or a prospective employee for declining to join a union.

In 1935 the National Labor Relations Act was signed into law granting American employees the right to organize and be represented by a union if they chose to do so. It is far past the time when we should also grant American employees the right to choose NOT to be represented by a union they don't feel benefits them, and not force them to financially support that union. Employees should not also have their freedom of speech rights violated by being forced to finance a union's political activity. This point has been upheld for public sector unions in the Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFCSME* (public sector employees who choose not to be members of the union cannot be forced to pay dues or maintenance fees to the union). There are now 28 states with Right to Work laws.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of nearly 700 members, strongly supports this bill and therefore requests that you give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate April Rose