

**Put Maryland on the Correct Side of History:
Ratify the Child Labor Amendment of 1924**

PROPOSED TEXT OF

SUMMARY

Now is the time to put Maryland on the right side of history by ratifying the Child Labor Amendment of 1924, which only needs approval by ten more states in order to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

BACKGROUND

Although twenty-eight states have already ratified the Child Labor Amendment, **Maryland is one of the twenty-two states that has not done so** — and in fact **we are one of fifteen states on record that voted against the Child Labor Amendment**. Our neighbors: NJ, PA and WV have ratified it among others.

While the enactment of the child labor provision in the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 removed the urgency for the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, the Amendment is still active and has no set deadline. The symbolic value of the U.S. constitutionally recognizing the need to “limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age” cannot be overstated and would be a momentous step forward in elevating children’s rights — not only in this country but throughout the world.

Maryland must do its part in the effort to codify this as an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Doing so would help immunize this important protection from the political whims of federal and state policymakers seeking to relax child labor law provisions.

This simple action would not only put Maryland on the right side of history by removing our past vote on the side of pro-child labor but would also send a powerful message that our state is committed to the recognition and protection of children’s rights.

Revival Movement

Originally the amendment was revived for symbolic reasons but now child labor protections are under attack in the United States. We have to forever close the door on child labor before it continues growing in other states. This amendment would keep child labor as a federal issue and stop any potential meddling by the Supreme Court. A national movement is growing to finish the ratification

- Introduced so far in HI, RI, NY, MN, NE, CT and MD
- DE, AK, VT and VA are on the way next session
- Passed the Hawaiian Senate twice with bipartisan support in 2021 and 2022 – supported by Hawaiian Speaker of House
- Supported by AFL-CIO in Rhode Island and Connecticut (along with SEIU and CWA in CT)
- Supported by the Child Labor Coalition, the only national anti-child labor organization in the US
- Agriculture sector removed their opposition of the amendment in NE
- Teachers Unions in AK, NE, VA, support the efforts
- MD would be new champion against child labor if ratified as it will be the first in a century
- Forever enshrine the rights of children in the US Constitution and commits future generations to protect them

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Children’s Advocacy Institute (619- 260-8805)