

Senate Joint Resolution 1_AFSCME Council 3_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV



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Patrick Moran – President

SJ1 – Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment
Finance Committee
January 22, 2025

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports SJ1, a joint resolution concerning the ratification of the federal Child Labor Amendment (Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution. The Amendment would provide Congress with the power to regulate and prohibit child labor. In 1924, Congress submitted to the states the Amendment for ratification to the Constitution, however, to date the requisite number of states needed to ratify the Amendment has not been met. By 1937, only twenty-eight states had ratified the Amendment.¹

Congress enacted reforms to address child labor practices, among other labor reforms, through the Fair Labor Standards Act, legislation that established certain prohibitions, conditions, and limitations on the use of child labor.² Previously, the Supreme Court had struck down Congress's prior attempts to regulate child labor under the Commerce Clause,³ however, that precedent was overturned in a subsequent decision which upheld the constitutionality of the Fair Labor Standards Act.⁴

Today, certain states have taken action to roll back child labor protections through state legislation.⁵ These states have rolled back child labor protections, despite the fact that child labor violations have surged in recent years.⁶ In federal fiscal year 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor concluded over 700 cases with child labor violations involving more than 4,000 children nationwide, an 89% increase from the prior fiscal year.⁷

AFSCME Council 3 strongly supports the ratification of the federal Child Labor Amendment to strengthen Congress's authority to regulate and limit the use of child labor. **We urge the committee to issue a favorable report of SJ1.**

¹ Betsy Wood, *The Forgotten History of the Child Labor Amendment*, Time (May 13, 2024), <https://time.com/6970389/child-labor-amendment-forgotten/>.

² See generally, Congressional Research Service, *Child Labor in America: History, Policy, and Legislative Issues*, 7 - 12 (Nov. 18, 2013), https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20131118_RL31501_008741c7351fd72ae2a262198ba9c0e44921a60a.pdf.

³ *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, 247 U.S. 251 (1918).

⁴ *United States v. Darby*, 312 U.S. 100 (1941).

⁵ Nina Mast, *Child labor remains a key state legislative issue in 2024*, Economic Policy Institute (Feb. 7, 2024), <https://www.epi.org/blog/child-labor-remains-a-key-state-legislative-issue-in-2024-state-lawmakers-must-seize-opportunities-to-strengthen-standards-resist-ongoing-attacks-on-child-labor-laws/>.

⁶ Laura Strickler, *Biden administration to crack down on child labor*, NBC News (Feb. 27, 2023), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/biden-administration-crack-child-labor-rcna72512>.

⁷ U.S. Dep't of Labor, *U.S. Dep't of Labor reaches agreement with Perdue Farms, secures judgement against staffing agency to address child labor violations* (Jan. 15, 2025), <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20250115>.

SEIU Local 500 Testimony on SJ0001 - 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

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Testimony - SJ0001, Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment
Favorable
Senate Finance Committee
January 22, 2025
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

Honorable Chairwoman Biedle & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We at SEIU Local 500 stand in strong support of Maryland's ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution. This historic amendment represents a critical step in ensuring that no child in this nation is exploited in the workforce and that their right to a safe, healthy, and fulfilling childhood is preserved and protected by law.

For generations, child labor has been a dark chapter in America's history. Though significant progress has been made in addressing this issue through labor laws and protections, it remains essential to embed these protections at the highest level of our legal framework—the Constitution. The Child Labor Amendment would guarantee that Congress has the authority to establish uniform, nationwide standards to protect children from exploitative labor practices, no matter where they live.

Maryland has a proud tradition of advocating for the rights and well-being of children. From our education system to our labor laws, we have consistently recognized the importance of giving children the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive. Ratifying the Child Labor Amendment would be an extension of that commitment and a powerful statement that Maryland values its children and their futures.

While many states have made strides in protecting children from harmful labor practices, gaps still exist. There are instances where children continue to be subjected to unsafe working conditions, long hours, and work that interferes with their education. This is not just a moral issue—it is a matter of fairness and justice for every child in our country. By ratifying this amendment, Maryland will help ensure that child labor laws are

uniformly enforced across the United States, providing greater consistency and protection for all children, regardless of state lines.

Moreover, the amendment would allow Congress to respond more effectively to changes in the economy, new industries, or evolving labor practices. It would give lawmakers the flexibility to craft laws that adapt to emerging challenges while maintaining a strong commitment to ending child labor once and for all.

As we consider the future of our children, we must act to protect their rights and opportunities. By ratifying the Child Labor Amendment, Maryland would join a national effort to safeguard the innocence of childhood, to ensure that no child is put to work in a way that hinders their growth, education, or well-being.

This is not just about ensuring fair labor practices—it is about affirming that every child has the right to a safe and nurturing environment where they can pursue their dreams, grow into productive adults, and contribute to society in meaningful ways. Child labor robs children of this fundamental right, and it is our collective responsibility to take action to prevent it.

We urge the members of the Maryland General Assembly to ratify the Child Labor Amendment, demonstrating our continued commitment to the protection of children and to ensuring that future generations will have the opportunity to live free from the burdens of child labor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

We ask you to support SJ 0001 and pass it out of this committee with a favorable vote.

Thank you,

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
SEIU Local 500

sj0001 2025 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJ0001
RATIFYING THE FEDERAL CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT**

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator Pamela Beedle, Chair, Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair and the members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: January 22, 202

We urge this Committee to favorably act upon SJ0001, in order to protect children in the workplace. We believe that children, as children of God, deserve dignity and respect, and most of all, love. We would be demonstrating that we believe this to be true by adopting this Amendment. This would ensure consistent child labor protections across all states, eliminating disparities where some states might have weaker regulations than others. By limiting child labor, the Amendment could safeguard children's physical and mental health, allowing them to prioritize education and development. In addition, this Amendment could empower Congress to target and combat particularly exploitative child labor practices, including those in hazardous industries. Finally, A federal standard could prevent businesses from gaining an unfair advantage by employing children at lower wages in states with lax child labor laws.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges a favorable vote.

MEC Testimony-SJ0001 (HJ0003)-Ratifying the Federa

Uploaded by: Rick Tyler, Jr.-Chair

Position: FAV



Maryland Education Coalition

Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Co-Chairs



Web site - www.marylandeducationcoalition.org *** Email - md.education.coalition@gmail.com

January 22, 2025

BILL: [SJ0001](#) ([HJ0003](#)) Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago and is made up of over twenty statewide organizations and individual advocates with extensive experience. (see below). We advocate for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability for the estimated 900,000 diverse students* in Maryland's public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status.

MEC supports the ratification of SJ 1 - Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment which would provide the U.S. Congress 4 with the power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of minors; and generally relating to the federal Child Labor Amendment. We believe child labor policy should be standardized among all states and protect children from labor practices that are not age appropriate, safe or healthy.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report for SJ 1 - Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment

ACLU of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Children's Behavioral Health Coalition, Free State PTA, Decoding Dyslexia of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Strong Schools Maryland, Kalman R. Hettelman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Sharon Rubinstein

SJR 1Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment.p

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes On Senate Resolution 1

Bill Title: Ratifying the Federal Child Labor Amendment

Committee: Finance

Hearing Date: January 22, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write to you in support of Senate Joint Resolution 1, a monumental step toward reaffirming the federal Child Labor Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as originally proposed by House Joint Resolution 184 of 1924. This resolution is not merely a formality; it represents a moral and legal imperative to protect the most vulnerable members of our society—our children—from exploitation in the workforce.

In the years since the federal proposal was first introduced, there has been a troubling rise in child labor violations across various states, many of which erode the hard-won protections for youth. Senate Joint Resolution 1 offers Maryland the opportunity to correct a historic oversight and to join a growing chorus of states calling for the ratification of this essential amendment. By granting Congress the explicit power to regulate and limit the labor of minors, we ensure that the labor market will not undermine the health, safety, and educational opportunities of our youth.

The necessity of this amendment is underscored by the documented weakening of child labor laws and the increasingly dangerous trends toward deregulation in some parts of the nation. If Maryland is to be a beacon of justice and fairness, we must act decisively. Ratifying this amendment is not only an investment in the protection of children's rights but also a reaffirmation of our state's commitment to upholding the principles of human dignity and opportunity for all.

I urge this committee to support Senate Joint Resolution 1 with the full weight of its authority. This resolution offers us the chance to correct an injustice and to safeguard the future of every child in America.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory V. McCray
45th District