



January 16, 2020

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 0163 – Labor and Employment - Labor Organizations - Right to Work – Support

Dear Delegate Davis:

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 be members of the union cannot be forced to pay dues or maintenance fees to the union). There are now 27 states with Right to Work laws.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, strongly supports this bill and asks that you give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready