



Testimony in Opposition to HB 1021

Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers

House Economic Matters Committee

February 25, 2020, 1:00 PM

Submitted by Terrence Cavanagh, Executive Director

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

On behalf of Service Employees International Union, Maryland and DC State Council, I am pleased to offer our organization's **opposition to HB 1021 the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Seasonal Temporary Workers.**

With over two million members, the Service Employees International Union is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers, many of them in low-wage, temporary positions, in key service sectors to improve our lives and the services we provide. In Maryland and DC, the seven SEIU locals that make up our State Council represent over 45,000 Health Care, Property Service, and Public Service Workers.

If any change should be made to the Act concerning seasonal and/or temporary workers, it would be to change from “106 days” to “90 days”. 90 days is a more common definition for temporary employment and is the term more states used when passing Earned Sick Leave Legislation. Some may ask “where does 106 days come from”. That does seem an unlikely number and one not commonly found in statutes. It was a painstaking compromise that different sides, operating in good faith, came together around.

This bill seeks to undo the work that this Committee did over several years. It is supported by the same people and same organizations that opposed the Healthy Working Families Act from Day One and continue to oppose to this day. To no one's surprise, they claim the law is doing them great harm and must be changed. As evidence of that, they point to the people who opposed the bill in the beginning, now, and will, no doubt in the future being for exempting their businesses out. Do not be fooled.

Our economy has seen an explosion in temporary, seasonal, and part-time jobs. This is the “gig economy”. If we exempt, as this bill seeks to do, an increasing number of Maryland workers who fall into these definitions, we deprive more and more of the very benefits this legislation sought to address.

SEIU urges a **unfavorable** report of **HB 1021**.

Thank you.