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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 13 – Influence on Collective Bargaining – Prohibition on Use of Public Funds
and Income Tax Addition Modification
Appropriations
February 3, 2021
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports the passage of HB 13. This legislation would prohibit a unit of State, county, or municipal government from knowingly using public funds to influence certain decisions of certain employees relating to collective bargaining; require an addition modification under the Maryland income tax for certain expenses to assist, promote, or deter collective bargaining; and apply certain provisions of the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

Throughout our country's history, we have seen undue influence used in an attempt to pre-determine the outcome of engagement between labor and management. All too often this has resulted in outcomes not representative of the truer result if the scales had not been tipped toward one side. Maryland governments should not be tipping the scales with appropriations to tamp down employee free association and employee voices in workplaces.

This legislation marks a positive step forward by ensuring public funds cannot be used to support or oppose an employee organization that represents or seeks to represent the employees of the unit of State, county or municipal government, or influencing becoming a member of an employee organization. In addition, no longer would this type of activity be eligible for a Maryland tax write off.

AFSCME Council 3 applauds the efforts of the sponsor to address these issues, and we request a favorable report of HB 13.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

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