



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support HB 13 – Influence on Collective Bargaining – Prohibition on Use of Public Funds and Income Tax Addition Modification. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

In a recent Executive Order, President Biden reaffirmed the position of the United States on collective bargaining rights by stating “*It is also the policy of the United States to encourage union organizing and collective bargaining.*”¹ Unfortunately, Maryland’s existing tax law does the exact opposite. By allowing companies to deduct from their taxes, the costs incurred for union-busting on the job site, we are incentivizing businesses to deny the right to collectively bargain to their workers. HB 13 corrects this, by removing this deduction for tax purposes. If businesses want to engage in union-busting in Maryland, they should not expect to be subsidized with the tax dollars of workers to do so. HB 13 also prohibits the State government, as well as County and Municipal governments, from spending taxpayer dollars to influence organizing and union elections. We cannot allow the taxes paid by workers to be used by our government to deny the right to collectively bargain to Maryland’s public workers.

Maryland needs to follow the lead of the United States in affirming our commitment to workers. We need to remove the tax incentive of businesses to engage in union-busting. We need to prohibit the use of our tax dollars being spent to hurt workers.

We urge a favorable vote on HB 13.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/22/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce/>