



SEIU MARYLAND & DC STATE COUNCIL

1410 Bush Street, Suite F
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Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 350
Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Verification
House Economic Matters Committee
January 28, 2021
1:00 PM

Submitted to Dereck E. Davis, Chairman
By Terry Cavanagh, Executive Director

SEIU Maryland & DC State Council urges a **Unfavorable Report to HB 350.**

With over two million members, SEIU is the largest union in North America. We are focused on uniting workers in health care, public services, including in public education, and property services to improve lives and the services we provide. In the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area, we represent over 50,000 workers.

We are thousands of essential workers in nursing homes, hospitals, schools and public buildings. We are the broad working class. Unfortunately, prior to the passage of the Healthy Working Families Act, too many of our members did not have access to paid sick leave. In many of their industries, paid leave of any kind was the exception and not the rule.

SEIU has been a supporter of the **Maryland Healthy Working Families Act** since its inception many years ago. Many of our members and leaders worked tirelessly and persistently to pass a bill that had the overwhelming support of the General Assembly. So great, in fact, that it prevailed over the governor's veto. Although it took several years, workers are now finally realizing the benefits of the law. We ask that you to not pull the rug out from under them.

There were many entities that fought against the **Healthy Working Families Act** and delayed passage for several sessions. They were never for the bill, no matter how it was amended to meet the concerns they raised. They were not for the bill in the beginning, not now, and won't in the future.

Since the bill became law, these opponents have come back every year with attempts to undermine the law, to give employers the tools to thwart the intention of the General Assembly.

They have not provided sufficient justification for cutting back on the benefits of this law. They depend on a bias against workers and hope they you share that.

In these times especially, we ask you to defend the law and protect Maryland's working families

We ask a Unfavorable Report on House Bill 350. Thank you.