



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

HB 13 – Influence on Collective Bargaining – Prohibition on Use of Public Funds Senate Finance Committee March 23, 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 HB 13 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 prohibit the use of our tax dollars being spent to hurt workers.

The original version of HB 13 included a provision that would have prohibited private businesses from deducting from their taxes the costs incurred for union-busting on the job site. Unions are saddened to see that this was amended out, thus continuing to incentivize businesses to deny the right to collectively bargain to their workers with a friendly tax code for union-busting. However, HB 13 still provides protections for public-sector workers from having their own tax dollars used against them, and for that reason, **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/>