

R001-0405

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**
20 **THE ABSENCE OF A RIGHT TO WORK POLICY IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

30 **WHEREAS:** A labor union is an organized group of workers; the objectives of the
40 organization are to increase job security, improve working conditions, and
50 increase wages and benefits; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Labor unions developed in response to the appalling work conditions brought on
70 by the industrial revolution; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** During the industrial revolution, American government operated on the principle
90 of *laissez faire*, which allowed businesses to operate with almost no
100 governmental oversight; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** Social Darwinism was justification to many “robber barons” that exploitation of
120 workers was not immoral because the owners were meant to succeed and if the
130 workers were meant to succeed, they would prevail; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** The Gilded Age has long sense past – *laissez faire* and Social Darwinism are no
150 longer guiding principles of American society; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** A “Right-to-Work” (RTW) state is a state that has laws that prohibit both the
170 closed and union shop. A right to work law secures the right of employees to
180 decide for themselves whether or not to join or financially support a union; and,

190 **WHEREAS:** Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act reads as follows: Agreements requiring
200 union membership in violation of State law – Nothing in this subchapter shall be
210 construed as authorizing the execution or application of agreements requiring
220 membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment in any State
230 or Territory in which such execution or application is prohibited by State or
240 Territorial law; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** In twenty-eight states, including Maryland, labor unions are using the absence of
260 Right to Work laws to force workers into compulsory union membership; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** According to the U.S. Department of Labor's state-by-state employment
280 statistics, the 22 states With Right to Work laws consistently show higher job
290 growth than the 28 states with forced unionism; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** According to the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, the cost of
310 living in 2000 was higher in non-RTW states than RTW states; and,

320 **WHEREAS:** According to the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, the 2000 mean
330 weekly earning adjusted for cost of living was higher for workers in non-RTW
340 than workers in RTW states; and,

350 **WHEREAS:** The absence of Right to Work laws deters business, as a result, Maryland
360 prefaces its status on its website, ChooseMaryland.org, – “While not a "right-to-
370 work" (RTW) state, Maryland offers businesses a very favorable labor climate;”
380 and,

390 **WHEREAS:** Forcing an employee to join an organization and pay money for something he
400 does not believe, in order to be employed, violates a worker’s freedom of
410 choice; and,

420 **WHEREAS:** Labor union leadership benefits greatly from an restructured contract, often
430 times at the expense of the tradesmen that the union is supposedly protecting;
440 and,

450 **WHEREAS:** Union “dues” are most visual expense to employees, however, the labor union is
460 capable of earning money for the hours that an employee works by taking a
470 percentage off the top; and,

480 **WHEREAS:** Labor unions not only fight the “robber barons,” but also lobby the government
490 for friendly labor laws and donate large sums (estimated at over \$5 billion
500 annually) to political campaigns; and,

510 **WHEREAS:** The Supreme Court rules in *Federal Election Commission v. Beaumont et al.*
520 (2003) that an individual’s dues cannot be spent for political purposes if that
530 person objects, on the basis of freedom of speech; and,

540 **WHEREAS:** In practice, any employee who seeks to have his/her dues directed away from
550 campaign contributions is blacklisted; and,

560 **WHEREAS:** A recent poll by the Marketing Research Institute found that over 84% of
570 Americans believe that employees who do not wish to be represented by a labor
580 union should have the right to bargain for themselves and 75% of union-member
590 households agreed that such monopoly bargaining is wrong; and,

600 **WHEREAS:** Noted economist and Nobel Laureate F.A. Hayek said, “It cannot be stressed
610 enough that the coercion which unions have been permitted to exercise contrary
620 to all principles of freedom under the law is primarily the coercion of fellow
630 workers. Whatever true coercive power unions may be able to wield over
640 employers is a consequence of this primary power of coercing other workers;”
650 and,

660 **WHEREAS:** Maryland and the workers of Maryland deserve an end to forced unionism to
670 promote the State economy and workers’ quality of living.

680 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
690 Governor and the Maryland General Assembly to draft legislation that would
700 make Maryland a Right-to-Work state; and,

710 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
720 Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation making Maryland a Right-to-
730 Work state; and,

740 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
750 Governor of Maryland to sign the legislation and make Maryland a Right-to-
760 Work state.

770 **MANDATES:** Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
780 Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
790 James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D., Secretary of the DLLR
800 Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, President of the Senate
810 J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Senator Minority Leader
820 Brian E. Frosh, Chair of Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
830 Thomas M. Middleton, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee
840 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House
850 Dereck E. Davis, Chair of the House Economic Matters Committee

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Rose Capozzi, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Chris Tinsman, Washington College