

Hannah Leavitt
Saco, Maine

Committee on Labor

Chair: Sen Michael Tipping
Sen Dick Bradstreet
Sen Joseph Rafferty

Chair: Rep Amy Roeder
Rep Marshall Archer

Rep Matthew Beck
Rep Alicia Collins
Rep Gary Drinkwater
Rep Valli Geiger
Rep Laurel Libby

Rep Rafeal Macias
Rep Charles Scold
Rep Mike Soboleski

LD 187 An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor Committee,

My Name is Hannah Leavitt, I am a resident of Saco. I am currently attending Husson University in Bangor with a major in Nursing and I ask you to vote no on LD187.

My father is a union carpenter. This allowed him to provide a good life for us including much needed family health insurance. In one year we had five surgeries between my parents and me. This could have easily crippled our savings and drastically affected our lifestyle. But instead we were able to get the care we needed then get back to work.

I learned first hand the benefits of being a union member and how lucky we were to live comfortably in a state we love.

In order to enjoy the benefits of a union common sense would say you would have to be a member of a union. This means paying dues similar to any organization like a gym, AAA, or a Home Owners Association (HOA). If you walk into a gym you need to swipe your membership card or you're not allowed inside, if your car were to break down and you called AAA for roadside assistance the first question they ask is what is your membership number, and if you lived in a HOA you must pay monthly dues.

The rules are the same in a union. Monthly dues cover the cost for necessary overhead to hire financial firms, to maintain pension and health funds for its members, and acturaries to recommend financial advice. They also cover the costs to maintain buildings for training and meeting space for Business Representatives to address the day to day business.

Paying dues covers the hidden costs that provide ongoing training, ensure safety on the job site and increase skillsets to prepare the members for future career opportunities. All of this is negotiated in a collective bargaining agreement with members input then voted on and agreed to with contractors, all of whom choose to be part of the union.

As I mentioned earlier, I attend nursing school and I hope to join and be an active member of the nurse's union when I graduate. I will happily pay dues as a union member, allowing me to have a strong career with a in the state I love.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, I ask you again to vote no on LD 187.

Sincerely,
Hannah Leavitt

