



**Testimony of Garrett Mason
in Support of LD 187
"An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on
Nonmembers"**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, My name is Garrett Mason. I am a resident of Lisbon Falls and a partner at Dirigo Public Affairs. I am here today representing our client, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Maine.

At ABC Maine, the **merit shop philosophy**¹ is at the core of our organization. A fundamental part of that philosophy is the belief that **workers should have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union.** Membership in any group, including a labor union, should be a **choice—not a condition of employment.**

For years, opponents of **Right to Work** policies have argued that workers should be required to pay “fair share” fees even if they do not wish to be part of a union. In 2018, the **U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Janus v. AFSCME* that public-sector employees have the right to work free from compulsory union representation and forced dues contributions.**² That decision made Right to Work the law of the land nationwide—but only for public-sector employees. We believe this **fundamental right should be extended to all workers,** regardless of whether they are employed in the public or private sector.

LD 187 does just that. The bill protects Maine workers by ensuring **they are not compelled to fund an organization they do not wish to be part of.** If workers find union representation valuable, **they should have the voluntary choice to support it financially.**

Beyond worker choice, Right to Work policies have been shown to **increase job opportunities, attract investment, and promote economic growth.** States with similar laws have experienced **higher private-sector job growth and greater capital investment.** Between 2011 and 2021, Right to Work states saw **employment growth of 13.2 percent,** compared to just **5.7 percent in non-Right to Work states.** Companies looking to expand their operations **favor states with Right to Work protections,** as these laws create a **more flexible and competitive workforce.**³

To be perfectly clear, **LD 187 does not prohibit unions from organizing or prevent workers from joining a union—it simply prevents forced financial support.** Unions argue that they are **required to represent non-members,** yet they actively **fight to maintain exclusive representation rights.** If they object to representing non-members, they **could negotiate**

¹ <https://www.abc.org/About-ABC/About-ABC/ABC-Philosophy>

² https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-1466_2b3j.pdf

³ <https://nrtwc.org/right-to-work-employment-growth-wins-21/>

members-only contracts, but they choose not to because exclusive representation provides them with more bargaining power. It is not fair to force workers to fund a union they never agreed to join. This bill ensures that no worker is compelled to pay for representation they did not ask for and do not want.

Maine's workers should be free to decide how to spend their hard-earned wages. ABC Maine urges this committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 187.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.