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Executive Vice President Vermont State Labor Council

I am submitting this statement on behalf of the 11,000 members of the Vermont State Labor Council AFL-CIO, and the large number of Vermonters that want to unionize but can't do so. I wanted to make a statement on H.308 and H.621 in regards to safe and fair Union elections. This legislation is needed to make it easier for workers to form collective bargaining units. Employers use the VLRB/NLRB waiting periods to intimidate workers in a variety of ways Card check is also important from a social Justice standpoint. BIPOC families benefit the most from union membership. Most are lifted out of poverty and given a sense of belonging. But most importantly they protected and seen as productive and valued members of communities. Discrimination in the work place is a huge problem for all Vermonters but especially BIPOC Vermonters and New American Vermonters. I spend a lot of my time also representing women in the work force from unequal pay, unfair upward mobility and sexual harassment on the shop floor and in the offices and work places in Vermont. Our LGBTQ Vermonters are in a constant battle to feel and be themselves in the workplace, unions are in the fight with them. As we together forge ahead to fight climate change, it is important that these green jobs be high paying union jobs. We must make it easier for Vermonters to create these bargaining units for the betterment of our state. I truly believe the passing of card Check legislation with help keep our young workers here in Vermont to curtail our aging work force. I ask you to move this legislation forward out of the house, and together let's work to get it signed into law. I thank you for listening, please reach out to our Executive Director Liz Medina on how we can get this moving and how we can help.

Thank you Chair Tom Stevens and the House General, Housing, and Military Affairs Committee!