

Andrew Horn's Testimony

Oppose  
HB 1704

**On the Right of Free  
Association**

**Testimony Against HB 1704**

Chair and members of the committee:

I come today not to speak against liberty, but to speak for it—real liberty, which recognizes that freedom isn't just for individuals standing alone. It's for citizens united in common purpose.

When working people join together in union—without so-called "right to work" laws weakening them—they don't just win higher wages and better benefits, though they certainly do that. They win something more valuable: a real voice in their workplace, a stake in their institution, and an equal seat at the bargaining table. That's the difference between just having a job and having a say in your destiny. A single worker is easy to ignore, but a united workforce is impossible to break. This bill would force us all to stand alone.

But the supporters of this bill claim they're protecting freedom by destroying the very organizations that give workers strength. They call it "choice." Yet what they offer is no real choice at all—it's the choice of the wolf to scatter the sheep.

Here's the simple truth: when employees vote to have a union represent them, and when an employer freely agrees to bargain with that union—no force, no coercion, just mutual agreement—they're exercising a fundamental freedom. They're saying, "We'll work this out together, because it serves us both." The employer gets stability and one contract. The workers get collective voice. This isn't the death of freedom; it IS freedom. When free workers and free employers make a deal, it's not our place to say they bargained too well.

This bill would violate that freedom. It tells both parties: "That agreement you made, that association you chose, that contract you found beneficial—we're tearing it apart." We'd substitute our judgment for theirs, our version of liberty for their own. We'd deny them the very right to contract that we claim to support. The right to make a contract includes the right to make it exclusive. To deny that is to deny the contract itself.

What madness is this? We don't tell businesses they can't have exclusive suppliers. We don't tell farmers they can't sell to one buyer. We respect their right to bargain as they see fit. Yet we'd deny that same right to teachers, public servants, and workers who serve our communities.

This isn't liberty. It's tyranny in freedom's clothing. If someone promises you a better deal by breaking your existing contract, look for the catch.

Let's not be fooled by pleasant words. The real test of a free society isn't whether each person stands alone, but whether free citizens can join together to shape their future. We were sent here to protect people's right to choose—not to cancel the choices they've already made. Destroy that right, and you destroy the foundation of American labor.

I urge you to vote ITL on this bill. Thank you for your attention.