

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

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August 25, 2017

Chairwoman Jennifer Benson
Joint Committee on State Administration
& Regulatory Oversight
State House Room 22
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Walter Timilty
Joint Committee on State Administration
& Regulatory Oversight
State House Room 213-B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Benson, Chairman Timilty, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my support for **“An Act Prohibiting Discrimination in State Contracts”** (S.1689 –H.1685).

In these tumultuous times, I am proud to be from Massachusetts where average citizens have turned out in large numbers to protest on behalf of human rights for people of color, exploited immigrant workers, LGBT individuals, and most recently the proposed “travel ban” on foreign nationals based on their Country of Origin or their religious beliefs. These were the very ideals this great Country and Commonwealth were built on.

I applaud this bill for requiring anyone who wishes to do business with the Commonwealth to affirm that they are in compliance with the Massachusetts Anti-Discrimination Laws and secondly, that they will not refuse to do business with someone based solely on their country of birth or some other irreversible trait.

In the days since Charlottesville, I believe it is more important than ever that the State of Massachusetts holds the standard high in regards to any form of discrimination against people or businesses. Hate has no place here.

It was not that long ago that Bay State citizens of Irish descent found NINA signs – “No Irish Need Apply”- facing them when they sought work from discriminatory employers. Over time, the Massachusetts legislature has written and enforced many laws outlawing discrimination against its citizens.

150 years later, the Commonwealth should not be doing business with corporations or institutions that discriminate against innocent business owners simply based on national origin.

I urge the Committee to report S.1689 and H.1685 favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Brian Richardson
Director of Organizing
NE Regional Council of Carpenters