

RESOLUTION NO. 73-2013

**TITLE: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION –
“RIGHT TO WORK” LAWS AND THE “WORKPLACE
FREEDOM” AMENDMENT TO THE OHIO
CONSTITUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BARBERTON
OPPOSING “RIGHT TO WORK” LAWS AND THE “WORKPLACE FREEDOM”
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SUPPORTING FAIR LABOR PRACTICES TO
SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE CITY OF
BARBERTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, special interest groups are promoting a so-called “right to work” called the “Workplace Freedom” Constitutional Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, which is actually an attack on working families and the middle class; and

WHEREAS, so-called “right to work” laws give multi-national corporations even more power to outsource jobs, cut wages and reduce benefits at the expense of our workers, small businesses and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, workers in states with so-called “right to work” laws have a consistently lower quality of life than in other states – lower wages, higher poverty and infant mortality rates, less access to the health care they need and poorer education for their children;

WHEREAS, so-called “right to work” laws weaken the voice of our everyday heroes – our nurses, firefighters, police officers and first responders – by making it harder to bargain for safe staffing levels and necessary equipment to keep us safe; and

WHEREAS, so-called “right to work” laws will silence whistleblowers who are counted on to keep our workplaces safe, protect consumer goods, services and products and safeguard our natural resources and environment; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of so-called “right to work” laws will erode the tax base that supports vital services in our communities, such as education, public safety, roads, water, etc.; and

WHEREAS, less than two years ago, Ohio voters rejected a similar political attack on Ohio’s workers and the middle class by overwhelmingly voting NO on Senate Bill 5/Issue 2, and it is clear that the sentiment of the people of the County of Summit is that collective bargaining rights of workers should be protected; and

WHEREAS, business and labor should work together to create good jobs and improve the economy, not be distracted by extreme outside groups that want to silence the voice of workers and drive down the middle class; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to immediately express its opposition to so-call “right to work” laws and the “Workplace Freedom” Constitutional Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and to express its support for fair labor practices and working families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Barberton, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby expresses its firm opposition to so-called “right to work” laws and the “Workplace Freedom” Constitutional Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and hereby expresses its support for fair labor practices and working families that would be hurt by such laws.

SECTION 2. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Barberton and the inhabitants thereof, for the further reason of immediately informing the public of its opposition to so-called “right to work” laws and the “Workplace Freedom” Constitutional Amendment, and provided it receives the necessary votes required by the City Charter, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval; otherwise to be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed _____ 2013

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved _____ 2013

Mayor