



## Legislation Text

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Res. No. 1182

Resolution commending the AFL-CIO's Campaign to Restore Workers' Freedom to Form Unions and Bargain Collectively in the United States and their Campaign Kickoff March & Rally in New York City on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2003.

By Council Members Foster, Barron, Brewer, Clarke, Comrie, Fidler, Gennaro, Gioia, Jackson, Koppell, Lopez, Martinez, Quinn, Nelson, Rivera, Sanders, Weprin and Gerson

Whereas, the AFL-CIO's Campaign to Restore Workers' Freedom to Form Unions and Bargain Collectively in the United States (the "Campaign") will hold their Kickoff March & Rally in New York City on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2003; and

Whereas, The purpose of the Campaign is to call for legislation to improve upon the current inadequate system of labor laws; and

Whereas, The freedom to form unions is a fundamental human right widely recognized by international law, U.S. law and the tenets of most major religions, and, as such, employees should have the freedom to make their own choice regarding unions without interference from management; and

Whereas, The percentage of workers who are union members continues to fall, from 32% in 1956 to 13% in 2001, but nonetheless, the AFL-CIO has estimated that 42 million workers in America would join a union if they had the opportunity; and

Whereas, According to the AFL-CIO, the major reason why workers do not unionize despite the desire to do so is that employers engage in intimidation tactics, including requiring mandatory anti-union meetings, training supervisors to intimidate, hiring anti-union consultants, holding 1-on-1 pressure sessions, threatening to shut down businesses and firing union supporters; and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch has stated that there is a culture of impunity in many areas of U.S. labor law and practice, amounting to violations of international human rights standards; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York commends the AFL-CIO's Campaign to Restore Workers' Freedom to Form Unions and Bargain Collectively in the United States and their Campaign Kickoff March & Rally in New York City on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2003.

LS#3605