

Resolution Calling on Senator Mark Warner to Co-Sponsor the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act

Sponsored by: Sean Casey, Russel Wiley, and Russell Davis

Whereas numerous studies have shown that unionized workers have higher levels of income and household wealth than non-unionized workers even after controlling for all other variables;

Whereas the erosion of union membership since the mid-1950s has contributed to wage stagnation,¹ rising levels of income² and wealth inequality,³ and declining levels of civic participation, political involvement, and voter turnout among lower-and-middle income Americans;⁴

Whereas a 2020 study featured in the American Journal of Political Science found that union membership leads to decreased levels of “racial resentment” and increased support for anti-racist policies like affirmative action among white workers;⁵

Whereas around 65% of the American public, the highest point since 2003, approve of organized labor;⁶

Whereas the proposed Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act), introduced by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), would, among other provisions, prohibit captive audience meetings, repeal all so-called “right-to-work” laws, increase monetary penalties for labor-law violations, enable workers to sue their employers in court when their employers violate their rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), and expands the right to strike;

Whereas President Biden has endorsed the PRO Act;

Whereas the PRO Act passed the House of Representatives on March 9, 2021 with bipartisan support;

Whereas every single Virginia Democrat in Congress has co-sponsored the PRO Act except for Senator Mark Warner; and

Whereas Senator Warner is one of only three Democratic Senators who have not yet cosponsored the PRO Act as of the time of this resolution’s writing. Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved that the Alexandria Democratic Committee endorses the PRO Act and strongly urges Senator Mark Warner to join other Virginia Congressional Democrats in cosponsoring and publicly supporting the PRO Act.

¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-08-31/weakened-unions-explain-stagnant-wages>

² <https://www.epi.org/blog/union-decline-rising-inequality-charts/>

³ <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/economy/reports/2016/12/01/164578/building-middle-class-wealth-through-unions/>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/08/opinion/conor-lamb-unions-pennsylvania.html>

⁵ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12537>

⁶ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/318980/approval-labor-unions-remains-high.aspx>