



ABC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 104

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 104 establishes the Public Works Open Contracting Act, prohibiting the use of collective bargaining agreements or contracts that require the use of a unionized labor force on public works projects. The bill prohibits the use of project labor agreements (PLAs), which require bidding parties to agree to use unionized labor in order to participate in a project.

ABC Position

ABC supports Senate Bill 104 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **Prohibits discrimination on public works projects.** Already in law in 24 other states, the policies in Senate Bill 104 would prohibit the use of conditional agreements on public construction projects that mandate that participants utilize unionized labor. While any entity is free to bid on these projects, merit shop contractors would be forced to hire from union halls rather than using their own employees. As Pennsylvania works to combat discrimination in other venues, SB 104 would prohibit discrimination against merit shop employees on publicly funded projects.
- **Provides efficiency in public works and savings for taxpayers.** For years, studies across the nation have routinely demonstrated that the use of PLAs increase project budgets, extend project schedules, and discourage the use of local labor forces. In fact, a recent infrastructure project in Berks County realized a savings of nearly \$6 million in taxpayer dollars after a project labor agreement requirement was removed. SB 104 would ensure that not only every available contractor has the opportunity to compete for public projects, but that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and judiciously.