

RESOLUTION

Massachusetts Not for Sale Resolution

- Whereas:** For society to work fairly for everyone, large tech companies, like Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash, should follow the same rules as every other business; and
 - Whereas:** Uber and several of these giant tech companies do not pay into Social Security, do not pay important business taxes, and do not pay their workers fairly or consistently by the same rules that apply to all businesses in Massachusetts, threatening the security of retirement and our health care systems; and
 - Whereas:** The Big Tech sponsored bill exempts these "gig economy" companies from paying into Social Security and unemployment, which would cost Massachusetts taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and weakening these programs for everyone; and also attempts to shield these companies from liability and financial responsibility if customers or members of the public are injured; and
 - Whereas:** Last year, in California, the same Big Tech companies spent more than \$200 million to win a ballot initiative campaign; and now these companies believe they can buy a similar ballot initiative in Massachusetts for the November 2022 ballot to avoid paying into Social Security, avoid paying taxes, and harm workers and consumers; and
 - Whereas:** Big Tech executives seek to present a false choice, suggesting that if low-wage workers are given any control over their schedules, they must sacrifice the rights and benefits our laws provide; yet there is nothing that prevents these companies from offering flexible scheduling while also following our civil rights and labor laws today; and
 - Whereas:** The big tech supported ballot question, if passed, would create a permanent underclass of low-wage, mostly Black, Brown, and immigrant workers by allowing these companies to pay their workers less than minimum wage and provide few, if any, benefits; and
 - Whereas:** At a moment of racial reckoning in our country, the bill would exclude app-based workers from the robust protections against racial discrimination and sexual harassment under the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act, MGL c. 151B; and according to many leading voices, passing this bill would be among the biggest steps backwards in the fight for equity and opportunity at work since the passage of the 1964 Civil Right Act.
- Now, therefore,** be it resolved that the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, join our union siblings under the guidance of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO to support the efforts of *Massachusetts Not for Sale* to oppose legislation and ballot initiatives by Big Tech corporations which weaken workers' rights and protections of their employees and threaten Social Security and public income.

REVISION OR COMMENTS _____

ADOPTED _____ DEFEATED _____ TABLED _____