

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
814 NORTH SECOND STREET · HARRISBURG, PA 17102-3212

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January 28, 2016

RE: “Paycheck Protection Bill” Wins House Panel’s Approval

Dear PA Representative:

On January 26, 2016 the House Committee approved SB501 by a party-line vote.

This “paycheck protection” is an unnecessary new law backed by big corporations, CEOs, and special interest groups to silence the voice of working families and their unions, which ensure workers are treated fairly, and can secure fair pay and safe working conditions. This bill deals with “Paycheck Protection Deception”.

“Paycheck protection” is part of a national effort being pushed by the same big corporations and CEOs who for years boosted their profits by sending American jobs overseas. Now the corporate special interests are targeting Pennsylvania to silence the voice of working families in our political system.

“Paycheck protection” attempts to silence the voice of public servants, including police officers, firefighters, and teachers. The push for “paycheck protection” is a part of national push, led by corporate special interest groups, to restrict workers’ rights and working families’ voice in the political process.

The PA Conference of Teamsters is appalled by some of the PA House member’s total disregard for their hard working constituents.

No worker can be forced to fund a union’s political and legislative activities. As it stands, union members choose whether to join the union, set their own dues, elect their own leaders, and vote on where and how their money will be spent.

There are so many dire problems facing Pennsylvania and yet some members of the PA House and PA Senate find it necessary to continue to waste time and taxpayers’ money playing politics instead of taking care of critical issues like for instance passing a budget.

You are not being entirely forthright with your constituents by claiming that these deductions from unions are costing the taxpayers a lot of tax dollars.

If you haven’t bothered to look at the collective bargaining agreements between the state and the union maybe you should take the time to enlighten yourself. Many collective bargaining agreements already have provisions dealing with the cost of deductions. One of the Commonwealths biggest collective bargaining agreements already addresses Political Contribution deductions. (See the language on page two)

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This language was mutually agreed to between the Commonwealth and the union through collective bargaining.

ARTICLE 42

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE DEDUCTIONS

Section 1 *The Employer agrees to deduct from the paycheck of employees covered by this Agreement voluntary contributions to the Union's Political Action Committee. The Employer shall make such deductions only in accordance with the written authorization of respective employees which shall specify the amount, frequency and duration of the deductions.*

Section 2 *The Employer shall transmit the monies deducted in accordance with this Article to the Union's Political Action Committee in accordance with the procedures agreed to by the Employer and the Union.*

Section 3 *The Union shall reimburse the Employer for the Employer's actual cost for the expenses incurred in administering this Article.*

Based on the above mutually agreed to language, there is no cost to the taxpayers and therefore there is no rhyme or reason to reinvent the wheel since cost is apparently not the motivating factor here.

Therefore, the only rational conclusion is that this bill is designed to specifically silence the voice of working families in our political system.

On behalf of the PA Conference of Teamsters and our 95,000 members, we are asking you to standup for the working men and women of Pennsylvania and **vote no on SB501** and any other similar legislation. These are the people that protect you and your families, deliver your food and goods, provide safe transportation, educate your children and so on.

Working men and women have a right to voice their political views and they should not be stifled by having their representatives attempt to silence them through unnecessary legislation.

Sincerely,



William Hamilton
President

WH:tcf

CC: Hon. Governor Tom Wolf
PA State Senate
General President James P. Hoffa, IBT
Joseph Molinero, President Teamsters Joint Council No. 40
All Affiliates of the PA Conference of Teamsters