



Update IAM LL 1943

February 25, 2011



Senate Bill 5 = Union Busting

If you have turned on the news in the past two weeks, you are sure to have noticed that there is an all out assault on collective bargaining across the Midwest. In Wisconsin, Governor Walker is pushing a Union-busting bill that would basically strip collective bargaining rights from public employees, going as far as making Unions have a certification vote every year in an effort to dismantle as many Unions as possible. Indiana is currently trying to pass a “right to work” initiative. Don’t be confused by the name “right to work”. In a “right to work” state, if you work at an organized workplace, you can either join the Union or not. If a person chooses not to, they don’t have to pay Union dues, but still receive all the benefits of being in the Union (wages, benefits, representation). This puts great financial stress on the Union. Once again, another effort to break the Union.

Here in our home state of Ohio, we too are facing a Union-busting Senate Bill that drastically changes the look of collective bargaining for public employees (Police, Fire, teachers, state college professors, city and state employees). While this bill doesn't have a direct effect on our collective bargaining rights because we work in the private sector, it will have a huge impact on our communities and is only the first step in trying to crush the Unions in the state of Ohio. The politicians supporting these legislative changes use the failing economy and budgeting shortfalls as the reason for wanting these changes. They say that the changes to collective bargaining will give them more control over their budgets and flexibility over their workforce. The problem with that argument is that not one of the politicians supporting SB5 has been able to give any firm numbers on the cost savings that they will receive from the passing of the bill. These are union-busting tactics that use the guise of fiscal responsibility to pull at the heartstrings of people that are suffering. It is lobbied that if they don’t pass this legislation to save the budget, then they will have to raise taxes. The solution to this problem is being fiscally responsible in good times and bad. Don’t wait until there is a \$5 billion shortfall in the states budget, then decide that the way to fix it is to strip Unions of their collective bargaining rights (especially when there are no facts on whether it would actually help the budget or not). The savings can come through negotiations, not legislation. Negotiate the changes necessary for the sustainability of the government without taking away people’s right to bargain. Giving government more power over it’s Union employees is not a good situation for any Union member in the state.

The hidden agenda behind all this legislation is to dry up the funds for pro-union candidates. It is partisan payback for the 2008 election. They are doing everything they can to keep that from happening again. The problem is that their plan is backfiring. Union members across the state are mobilizing in opposition of this anti-union push. We urge everyone to take a few minutes out of your day and show your support to the public Union members across our great state. Please call 1-888-218-5931 and let your State Senators Shannon Jones and Gary Cates know that you stand with your Union brothers and sisters and strongly oppose Senate Bill 5. Let them know that you believe in seniority rights and collective bargaining rights for employees. Make no mistake, this union-busting push will not stop with public sector employees. There is nothing Governor Kasich would like more than to turn Ohio into a “Right-to-Work (for less)” state. Please take action, find a few minutes to call the number above.

Negotiation Prep

Last week, the majority of your executive board spent the week at the IAM training facility in Negotiations Prep Training Class in an effort to be fully prepared for the upcoming negotiations with AK Steel. The classes focused on the many different aspects of Collective Bargaining and Negotiations. Your bargaining committee worked hard to put together a thorough communication plan and bargaining strategy that we believe will pay dividends to the membership.

401K Workshop

A representative from Fidelity Investments will be holding a 401K workshop for our members on Thursday March 10th at the Union Hall. There will be a morning session and an afternoon session in order to give everyone the opportunity to attend, no matter what shift they are working. The workshop will be open for all members and their spouses. It would be great to get an estimate on how many people we will be hosting, so please call Ed DeVault at 423-6573 and let him know if you plan on attending. That Thursday is also the membership meeting, we will have the final plans for that next week. We expect that it will be held following the workshop. You will be mailed more information on this soon.

Your Executive Committee

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