



PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

RICHARD W. BLOOMINGDALE
President

FRANK SNYDER
Secretary-Treasurer

November 28, 2017

Dear Representative:

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, on behalf of the 800,000 men and women working in the private sector, public sector, and Building Trades throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urges you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 166. This legislation was reported by the House State Government Committee last week and is currently positioned for floor activity next week.

It is important to understand that the deduction of union dues from workers' paychecks is negotiated and that no union member can be subjected to such deductions without his or her express approval. Moreover, it is already current law that unions' campaign contributions – and more general political activities such as lobbying, issue advocacy, ballot initiative campaigns, and independent union advocacy in support of particular candidates – cannot use dues from any individual who objects to these priorities.

Pennsylvania currently allows numerous payroll deductions for public employees towards health insurance, prescription drug, and life insurance companies. These very corporations spend untold amounts of money themselves to advocate on their issues. These political and lobbying activities are utterly untouched by SB 166. The fact that unions are singled out for criticism in this area is simply due to anti-union bias, and is intended to make it more difficult for unions to fairly represent their members. Silencing workers, or any constituency group, for that matter, through legislation has no place in a free democracy.

We ask that you OPPOSE Senate Bill 166. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact our Legislative Director, Chad Trainer, at 717-231-2842, or via e-mail at ctrainer@paaficio.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Bloomingdale, President
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer