

Don't Hurt our Public Sector Workforce

VOTE NO ON UNION BUSTING – VOTE NO ON SB 78

Background: An out-of-state billionaire funded think tank is back with a scheme to attack the unions representing our teachers, state and municipal workers, law enforcement officers, firefighters and other public sector workers. The bill is similar to policies that have been enacted in Alaska (that have since been scrapped due to a court order) to change the ways in which union members can keep their membership. **SB 78 will make it far more difficult for all public sector workers to exercise their constitutional right to stay in their union! The bill creates an unnecessary burden and uncertainty for our front-line workers in the middle of a deadly pandemic.**

- SB 78 would require dues authorizations to be renewed every three years or anytime a contract is reauthorized, meaning the union would have to chase down re-authorization forms from members who never had any intention of leaving the union and can currently do so at any point they decide to.
- After the employer receives a signed dues authorization, deductions would not start until the employer goes on to “confirm with the employee, electronically or by other means, that he or she authorized the deduction of dues and uniform assessments.” This puts the employer in charge of the dues authorization process for the first time in history. The bill now contains a 30-day deadline for employers to complete this work but there are no penalties in place for failure to comply so our public sector workers could have an indeterminate period of confusion and fear as they wait for their employer to verify their membership.
- Many unions offer supplemental insurance and other benefits that could be disrupted each year during the recertification process.
- The bill also requires dues authorizations to include the following specific acknowledgment, in bold letters and at least 14-point type:
“I acknowledge and understand that Florida is a right to work state and union membership is not required as a condition of employment. I understand that union membership and payment of union dues and assessments is voluntary and that I may not be discriminated against in any manner if I refuse to join or financially support a union.”
Public sector workers understand their Right to Work. This language is intended to tip the scales against membership.

SB 78 Hurts our Public Sector Workers...PLAIN AND SIMPLE

- **SB 78 is unnecessary.** Florida’s workers NEVER have to join their union. It is their choice and they can cancel their membership at any time.
- **SB 78 places a burden on workers** who want to be a member in their union. It forces them to reauthorize every year, even though they can already quit at any time.
- **SB 78 will create chaos.** There are no time limits or other requirements for the employer to confirm the membership authorizations. They can simply ignore the requests for long periods of time.
- **SB 78 is the product of wealthy out-of-state special interests.** The bill does not address any problems in Florida and does nothing to improve the situation for our public sector employees.

