

Resolution Opposing Freedom Foundation Legislation Attacking Public Employees

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature passed legislation to allow public employees to collectively bargain in 2005;

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature is now considering a total of 13 pieces of proposed legislation written by the Freedom Foundation that undermine and attack the collective bargaining process for public employees;

WHEREAS the Freedom Foundation, is a reactionary political organization, whose goal is to bust unions in the manner of the state of Wisconsin, with a goal of turning the state of Washington into a right to work state;

WHEREAS the term “right to work” simply means an employee can’t be compelled to join a union as a condition of employment, which would eliminate closed shops and require union members to bear the cost of representation of non-member employees; and

WHEREAS the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) clarified the bargaining rights of most other private-sector workers and established collective bargaining as the “policy of the United States” and the right to collective bargaining also is recognized by international human rights conventions, and the freedom to form and join a union is core to the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights and is an “enabling” right – a fundamental right that ensures the ability to protect other rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats urge all legislators to act in the public interest, to fight against the attacks on public employees and their right to collectively bargain, rejecting all future or current Freedom Foundation bills, similar to:

- SB 5045/HB 2068 – Creates a new process to eliminate union security clauses in collective bargaining agreements in an attempt to harm unions financially by requiring them to represent employees who don’t pay dues.
- SB 5226 – Public sector union finances. Requires unions to publicly report financial information that union members already have access to, and is intended only to harass public sector unions.
- SB 5237 – Expands the decertification process solely for the purpose of creating chaos in a union’s ability to operate.
- SB 5329 – Requires collective bargaining session to be open to the public. Proponents of this bill are trying to make the collective bargaining process unworkable.

- 43 • SB 5515 – Prohibits partial public employees from bargaining for employer
44 supported savings programs and retirement security and is an attempt to repeal
45 provisions of the current home care worker contract.
- 46 • SB 5552/HB 1968 – Broaden the basis for a religious exemption from union
47 membership and is intended to harm unions financially by requiring them to
48 represent employees who don't pay dues.
- 49 • SB 5602/HB 1773 – Prevents shop stewards, bargaining team representatives,
50 and other union officials from being able to perform their duties.
- 51 • SB 5671 – Goes beyond Harris v. Quinn by making it even harder for partial
52 public employees to negotiate for better wages, training, and working conditions.
- 53 • SB 5854 /HB 1991 - The bills requires a central web portal for CBA agreements
54 that are already public record. The foundation wants taxpayers to fund this
55 service merely for the foundation's own convenience.
- 56 • HB 1953 – Requires periodic recertification elections for bargaining
57 representatives of partial public employees in an attempt to make it impossible
58 for unions to function effectively.

59
60

61 Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 4/10/2015)

62

63 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
64 "PASSED" at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.

65

66 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.