

POLICY PRIORITIES: OHIO

SENATE BILL 1: HIGHER ED DESTRUCTION ACT

Sponsor: Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland)

Latest: Signed into law 3-28-2025

Details: This bill will take effect 6-25-2025.

Next Steps: Youngstown State University Professors delivered 4,500 signatures and a summary of repeal language for SB 1. They hope to get a referendum on the Nov. 4 ballot.

SENATE BILL 8: UNION RELEASE TIME BAN

Sponsor: Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City)

Latest: 2nd hearing in Government Oversight & Reform Committee scheduled for 3-19-2025.

Details: Strips away paid leave for essential union advocacy and political engagement, voids contract provisions that allow union leave, overriding agreements that workers and employers have negotiated in good faith, and forces workers to use personal leave for union advocacy, SB 8 discourages participation and weakens worker power.

HOUSE BILL 96: STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL

Sponsor: Brian Stewart (R-Ashville)

Latest: Budget passed in the House on 4-9-2025. Now goes to Ohio Senate. The two chambers are required to negotiate a final version for Governor DeWine to sign by the end of June.

Details:

- Restores funding to libraries after backlash.
- Abolishes the Ohio Elections Commission.
- Includes \$600 million in state backed bonds for a new Browns stadium.
- Underfunds the Fair School Funding Plan by \$2.75 billion.
- Private schools receive \$500 million vs. \$226 million to public schools.
- Allows state law on teacher assignments to override existing collective bargaining agreements.

RIGHT-TO-WORK PROPOSAL

Sponsor: Levi Dean (R-Xenia)

Latest: This proposed bill has not been introduced.

Details: Commerce and Labor Committee Chair Mark Johnson says he won't have a hearing on the bill. Would make it a crime for unions to require membership or collect dues. Lets non-members benefit from union contracts without paying dues, weakening worker power.

SENATE BILL 33: LABOR LAW NOTICES

Sponsor: Steve Wilson (R-Maineville)

Latest: The bill was signed into law on 4-22-2025.

Details: The bill allows an employer to post certain labor law notices on the internet.

SENATE BILL 50: MINOR WORK HOURS

Sponsor: Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster)

Latest: 4th Hearing in Workforce Development held 3-18-2025.

Details: Allows a 14 or 15-year-old to work between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. at any time of the year with approval from a parent or legal guardian. Currently, a 14 or 15-year-old can work between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. between June 1 and September 1.

SENATE BILL 56: MARIJUANA TAX BILL

Sponsor: Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City)

Latest: Passed Senate on 2-26-2025.

Details: Restores Host Community Fund dollars to municipalities at the levels passed under Issue 2. House Bill 160 would sunset the fund.

SENATE BILL 69: PENSION REFORM PLACEHOLDER

Sponsor: Mark Romanchuck (R-Ontario)

Latest: Referred to Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology Committee on 2-12-2025.

Details: Signals the intent of the General Assembly to reform laws governing Ohio's five public pension systems.

POLICY PRIORITIES: FEDERAL

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

President Donald Trump executed the biggest attack on unions in American history:

- **Elimination of Collective Bargaining Rights (March 27, 2025):** An executive order ended union bargaining rights for over one million federal workers in agencies tied to national security. Citing the Civil Service Reform Act, the administration claimed union activity impeded operations, sparking legal challenges from affected unions.

MEMORANDUMS & AGENCY RULES

- **Reinstatement of Schedule F (April 10, 2025):** President Trump reinstated Schedule F, reclassifying approximately 50,000 federal employees in policy-related roles as at-will workers. This action removes civil service protections, facilitating their dismissal and enabling the appointment of political loyalists, thereby undermining the merit-based federal workforce.
- **End of Union Dues Payroll Deductions for Federal Workers (April 2025):** The Trump administration has ceased collecting union dues via payroll deduction for federal employees in agencies affected by the March 27 executive order eliminating collective bargaining rights. Unions, including the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), were not notified in advance, leading to financial disruption. Employees discovered the change when dues were absent from recent paychecks.
- **VA's Selective Enforcement of Union Rights (April 18, 2025):** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it would continue to honor collective bargaining rights for employees whose unions have not engaged in legal action against the Trump administration. This selective enforcement strategy has raised concerns about potential retaliation and inconsistent application of workers' rights.

HOUSE BILL 2550: PROTECT AMERICA'S WORKFORCE ACT

Sponsor: Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

Latest: Introduced 4-1-2025. Referred to House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Details: Bill seeks to nullify the recent executive order that removed collective bargaining rights from federal employees in numerous agencies, including Defense, Justice, and Veterans Affairs. The bipartisan bill aims to restore union representation and uphold existing labor agreements for the affected workers.

LEGAL CHALLENGES

- **Legal Challenge to FMCS Dismantling (April 2025):** AFGE and AFL-CIO unions sued the Trump administration for dismantling the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, including firing mediators and closing field offices. The lawsuit argues that eliminating FMCS undermines collective bargaining by removing critical dispute resolution services, threatening workers' rights across the public and private sectors.
- **Supreme Court Grants Stay in Federal Worker Firings Case (April 8, 2025):** The U.S. Supreme Court granted the government's request to stay a lower court's injunction blocking mass firings of federal workers. Despite the setback, AFGE and its coalition of plaintiffs vowed to continue their legal battle to protect civil service protections and union rights.

FIGHTING BACK

- **Launch of "Rise Up" Legal Defense Network:** In response to widespread federal layoffs, a coalition led by the AFL-CIO launched an initiative to provide pro bono legal assistance to federal employees affected by the recent workforce reductions