

POLICY PRIORITIES: OHIO

OHIO HOUSE

HB 375 – Reduce the maximum weeks an individual may receive unemployment

Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Teska (R-Clearcreek Twp)

Status: House Public Insurance & Pensions Committee; Second/proponent hearing 3/18/26

Details: Reduces the maximum time an individual may receive unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 20 weeks.

Position: Oppose

HB 577 – Require Photo ID for Absent Voting

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Ferguson

Status: House General Government Committee; Second hearing 3/24/26

Details: Requires a person who votes by mail to include a copy of the voter's photo ID with the voted ballot when returning it to the board of elections.

Position: Watch

HB 643 – Limit EdChoice Expansion Scholarship Based on Income

Sponsor: Reps. Justin Pizzuli (R-Scioto County), Anita Somani (D-Dublin)

Status: Referred to House Education Committee 2/4/26

Details: Limits eligibility for an EdChoice Expansion scholarship to students with families with a federal adjusted gross income of \$500,000 or less.

Position: Watch

HB 674 – Let Schools Transport Students by Transportation Network Company

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Miller (R-Newark)

Status: House Education Committee; Fourth hearing 3/24/26

Details: Aims to authorize a school district or governing body to contract with a transportation network company (TNC) to provide student transportation to and from school and school-related activities.

Position: Watch

HB 719 – Return Control of the State Teachers Retirement (STRS) Board to Active and Retired Educators

Sponsor: Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon)

Status: Referred to House Public Insurance & Pensions Committee; First/Sponsor hearing 3/25/26

Details: Reverses provisions in the state budget that restructured the STRS board: restores elected active and retired teacher member seats, repeals the automatic abolition of certain educator-elected seats scheduled under the budget bill, and discontinues the expansion of appointed investment positions created in the budget.

Position: Support

HB 778 – Exclude certain fire and EMS levies from being reduced

Sponsor: Reps. Kevin Miller (R-Newark) and David Thomas (R-Jefferson)

Status: Referred to House Ways & Means 3/25/26

Details: Aims to exclude certain fire and emergency medical services levies from being reduced by a community reinvestment area or tax increment financing property tax exemption.

Position: Watch

OHIO SENATE

SB 331 – Allow Certain Public Hospitality Employees to Accept Gratuities

Sponsor: Sens. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville), Willis Blackshear (D-Dayton)

Status: Senate Workforce Development Committee; Second hearing 3/24/26

Details: Would allow public servants in traditionally tipped positions to accept tips. The public agency employing a tipped worker would not be able to use the gratuity as a credit towards the minimum wage rate. Provision does not extend to elected positions or government leadership positions.

Position: Watch

POLICY PRIORITIES: FEDERAL

S.1383 – SAVE AMERICA ACT

Status: Passed House on 2/11/26 by 218-213 vote.

The bill has been taken up in the Senate where 60 votes are needed to pass. The Senate is in the second week of a marathon debate of the bill.

Details:

- Requires states to collect and document proof of citizenship from voters, which few states currently do, and establish additional voter list maintenance processes
- Would implement a strict photo ID requirement for federal elections and specify the types of documentary identification accepted. Voter ID must indicate the voter is a US citizen.
- Would require voters to submit a photocopy of their identification both when applying for and when submitting absentee/mail ballots.

Position: Oppose

Take Action: Tell Sen. Moreno 202-224-2315 and Sen. Husted 202-224-3353 to oppose this legislation.

H.R.2550/S.2837 – PROTECT AMERICA’S WORKFORCE ACT

Status: After a discharge petition forced a vote, the House passed H.R. 2550 on 2/11/26 with bipartisan support by a 231-195 vote.

Details:

- Overturns the Executive Orders eliminating bargaining rights for select federal workers.
- Ensures that any collective bargaining agreement in effect as of the EO remains in full force.

Position: Support

Take Action: Tell Sen. Moreno 202-224-2315 and Sen. Husted 202-224-3353 to stand with workers and co-sponsor the Protect America’s Workforce Act.

H.R.1065 – PROTECT OUR LETTER CARRIERS ACT

Status: Referred to committee. H.R.1065 has 186 cosponsors. Companion bill: S.463.

Details: Deters crimes and assaults against letter carriers by securing keys and collection boxes, directing U.S. attorney offices to prioritize cases involving assaults against letter carriers, and strengthening sentencing guidelines for those found guilty of these crimes.

Position: Support

H.R.5267 – AMERICAN FRANCHISE ACT

Status: Referred to Committee on Education & Workforce. 95 cosponsors as of 3/25/26.

Details: Narrowly defines a franchisor as a “joint employer” only when it has direct, hands-on control over workers’ pay, hiring, firing, or scheduling. Undermines workers’ rights to good faith bargaining and the effective enforcement of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Position: Oppose

H.R. 6960 – THOMAS M. CONWAY ACCESS TO VETERANS RESOURCES IN THE WORKPLACE ACT

Status: Referred to House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

Details: requires the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a standardized, printable notice detailing federal and state benefits available to veterans. Mandates employers to display this notice.

Take Action: UWUA National Veterans Committee Call to Action – ask members of Congress to support this bipartisan legislation.