

**Testimony submitted by**

**Mary A. Hohe, Retired State Employee**

**Before the House Labor Relations Committee  
on Tuesday, August 16, 2011**

**In Support of Pennsylvania Open Workforce Initiative  
H.B. 50, 51, 52, and 53**

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today on behalf of all victims of forced unionism. My name is Mary Hohe and I am a retired state employee.

It has always been my belief that to work and serve is the highest calling in life and that each of us is blessed with certain talents and abilities and charged with the task of using those talents and abilities for the good of other people.

In 1972 I took a civil service exam, interviewed for a job and was hired as an employee of the Commonwealth of PA, in the hope of doing just that.

No union gave me my abilities and talents, no union took the civil service exam for me, no union interviewed me for a job, and no union hired me.

Imagine my surprise, when, in 1988, the union informed me I had two choices; join their membership, or start paying them an agency shop fee.

Having grown up in a union family, I knew I wanted nothing to do with unions; however, if I refused to pay them an agency shop fee, I would no longer be allowed to use my God given talents and abilities in service to the citizens of this Commonwealth because I would be fired from my job.

To force anyone to pay money to a special interest group in order to be allowed to work is tyranny! No union should have the right to

interfere with my choices for my life's work and my willingness to fulfill those choices. Our forefathers fought and died to prevent that kind of oppression.

My freedom in the workplace was offered up for sale to the highest bidder against my will. Even the United States Government may not deduct money from my salary unless I sign a W-4 form authorizing them to do so.

However, the union deducted an agency shop fee from my salary without any authorization by me. I never signed anything giving them permission to take this money out of my paycheck. Evidently, in PA, unions have more power than the United States Government. If we allow this to continue, we had better start posting signs on all roads leading into PA warning people that American freedom in the workplace stops at Pennsylvania's borders because in Pennsylvania, unions dictate policy and union tyranny rules!

We need to get rid of the agency shop law because all citizens should have the freedom to decide for themselves whether support for a union is beneficial to them. And those who want nothing whatsoever to do with unions should never, under any circumstances, be forced to support them in any way.

Full freedom as American citizens will be achieved when this agency shop law is repealed.