

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE  
HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
JUNE 5, 2014**  
**SUBMITTED BY ANGELA ZAYDON**  
**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE**  
**MANUFACTURER & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Good morning. My name is Angela Zaydon and I am the Government Affairs Representative for the Manufacturer & Business Association, a regional employers' association that represents more than 4,500 member companies located throughout 27 counties of Pennsylvania. With offices in Erie and Harrisburg, we are dedicated to providing information and services to our members that will assist them in the pursuit of their business and community interests.

I would like to thank Chairmen Metcalfe and Cohen, as well as the members of the House State Government Committee, for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 1507, and the need to pass the paycheck protection issue.

The paycheck protection issue is one of the Manufacturer & Business Association's top state legislative priorities, and has been for many years. There are many reasons our membership feels so strongly about paycheck protection.

The government should never be in the business of collecting any money and remitting it to any organization, association, or club, including a union. This is all done at the taxpayers' expense. The public unions claim that it doesn't cost the government much to provide this service. It doesn't matter how little or how great the expense is – it matters that it is taxpayer dollars being

used. Currently, state and local governments, including school districts, use taxpayer-funded payroll systems and public employee time to collect union campaign contributions and union membership dues. There are real costs associated with this practice. All membership driven organizations will tell you that there is a real cost associated with collecting dues from members. Many private organizations have entire departments dedicated to collecting dues money. The government unions have their dues money collected for them, free of charge, and remitted to them, free of charge. The taxpayers are footing the bill for this service. It is not free for the taxpayers. This is a privilege that only government unions are afforded, and it needs to end.

Public resources should never be used for political purposes. Government unions are legally permitted to use taxpayer resources to collect money used for political purposes. No other private organization receives this benefit. Taxpayers shouldn't have to collect money used for partisan politics. When House Bill 1507 passes, taxpayers will no longer be responsible for financing the deduction of dues, fees and PAC dollars—that responsibility will fall on the unions, where it belongs.

This is not anti-union, it is pro-worker and pro-taxpayer. This bill will simply require Government union leaders to collect their union fees, dues and campaign contributions directly from their members rather than using taxpayer resources to do so. It DOESN'T make Pennsylvania a Right to Work state nor does it change how unions bargain or prevent workers from joining a union. Recent surveys show that 80% of Union households in Pennsylvania believe taxpayer resources should not be used to collect campaign contributions. There is statewide support for this issue.

I can tell you that our membership emphatically supports paycheck protection. These views are represented across our membership area. We have had numerous teachers tell us that they believe it is unfair that they are paying dues that are collected with their community's tax dollars that are used to support candidates that they don't believe in – and they have no choice or say in the matter. I would like to share specific input from a few of our members on this issue. They are the true job creators – and your constituents.

**CHANNELLOCK, Inc., Meadville, Pennsylvania - Jon S. DeArment, Vice President**

**Manufacturing & Engineering**

"Our family business is deeply rooted in the culture and community of working America, and we are proud to have our workforce represented by the United Steelworkers. In my opinion, this is not an anti-union piece of legislation. This is about BIG government getting BIGGER. Government or public sector unions have the ability to lobby for higher taxes, more spending, and an ever-increasing debt that is crushing our working and middle classes. All of which is financed through union dues collected directly out of the paycheck of its members whether they support their union's political agenda or not. No other organizations have this luxury, and public sector unions should not have the ability to use tax payer resources to collect their campaign and lobbying funds. This law does not take away any union's ability to collect dues, fees, or PAC dollars from anyone. It simply requires public sector and government unions to play by the same rules everyone else has to play by, without taxpayer subsidies."

**Tech Molded Plastics, Inc., Meadville, Pennsylvania – Mark Hanaway, Vice President**

“Neither union members nor taxpayers should be forced to subsidize candidates, political activity, or lobbying efforts as a condition of employment. Taxpayer resources must not be diverted from the general good of the state to promote selective political ideology for special interests. Paycheck Protection will protect both the taxpayer and taxpaying union members from unfair political privilege.”

In conclusion, the longstanding practice of the government collecting union members’ dues and Political Action Committee (PAC) money and remitting it to the unions must cease. Our members’ tax dollars are used to provide this service for the unions who use the money to support candidates that our members may not support. Neither union members nor taxpayers should be forced to subsidize candidates, political activity, or lobbying efforts.

We urge you to pass HB 1507 and make Unions accountable to their members. Instead of dues being automatically withheld from the paychecks of members, unions will have to collect money from individual members, and justify why those monies are necessary and how the money is being spent, just like every other organization.

Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for taking the time to hear the concerns of the Manufacturer and Business Association and the concerns of our members on the paycheck protection issue. We urge you to pass House Bill 1507.