

As a member of AFFT and a Pennsylvania school teacher, I disagree with HB 950.

HB 950 plans to amend Article I of the Pennsylvania Constitution to enshrine the right to organize and collectively bargain for all workers in Pennsylvania. While this may be a fundamental right, it is not democratic and not representative of what a true Constitutional Republic and Union Democracy represents for all workers.

As a Pennsylvania teacher, I've been a witness to the partisan nature of unions for 23 years. When reviewing the U.S. Department Labor's LM-2 website, it's clear how far to the left partisan public sector unions have gone, based on how they spend their money. This partisan shift is not representative of the union membership, who pays union dues, but rather union executives in an attempt to gain political and financial power.

I've witnessed the union organize endorsement votes for candidates running for major offices like President of the United States, Governor of Pennsylvania, and Mayor of Philadelphia. Every ballot presented to union members lists candidates running for the Democrat Party. There is never a candidate on the union ballot for the Green Party, the Libertarian Party, or the other major party, the Republican Party.

So HB 950 would forever guarantee that unions, who by nature are partisan organizations, get to have a permanent and enshrined place in Pennsylvania's Constitution.

Also, HB 950 states that 237 years ago, Pennsylvanian families fought to protect the fundamental right to collectively bargain. But let's not rewrite history, because in Pennsylvania in 1787, our Founding Fathers created the U.S. Constitution for 'We the People', not just the Pennsylvania workers in the Democrat Party. Pennsylvania is known for the founding of this great country where liberty and freedom reign.

Forever enshrining organized partisan unions and the right to organize and collectively bargaining is not Union Democracy and not good for all Pennsylvanian workers and their families. The 2018 SCOTUS decision in the *Janus v AFSCME* court case outlined true Union Democracy and that is what the Pennsylvania General Assembly needs to be fighting for in any bill is to come forward to protect workers' rights in Pennsylvania.

There are plenty of organized unions who collectively bargain in today's workplaces and there is no competition to their status. What is not represented in those workplaces is the freedom to choose, at the outset, whether to join the union or not.

The General Assembly needs legislation to protect Union Democracy for Pennsylvania workers from organized labor's coercive and bullying tactics. We need these protections from organized labor in our workplaces to preserve and retain our freedom to work, whether it is teaching or any other public service, and to remain free according to our individual conscience and beliefs.

I urge you to reject HB 950.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views and concerns on HB 950.

Rochelle Porto

ra.port@1791.com
(267) 230-8077
2460 Brandon Court, Bensalem, PA 19020

This written testimony is intended for the House Labor and Industry Committee's hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.