



ABC SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 166

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 166 establishes the Protection of Public Employee Wages Act, prohibiting public employers from automatically deducting money designated for political purposes from the wages of employees. This legislation also prohibits individuals and organizations from requesting such a deduction and bars any collective bargaining agreement entered into after the effective date of the act from requiring such automatic deduction.

ABC Position

ABC supports Senate Bill 166 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.

- **Provides savings to taxpayers.** Current automatic deduction systems utilize the Commonwealth payroll system to provide for political allocations, meaning taxpayer funds are utilized to provide for the automatic assessment of union political funds. SB 166 would prohibit the Commonwealth from utilizing taxpayer-provided collection systems for union lobbying and political funding.
- **Encourages a level playing field and free choice for hard-working union members.** Currently, public employee unions are unique in their ability to utilize the Commonwealth and taxpayer-funded collection methods to acquire political funds for campaign contributions and lobbying purposes. SB 166 would level the playing field, requiring those organizations to actively solicit contributions from their members in the same way that thousands of private organizations operate. This would also provide more choice to union members who would make an active choice to participate in such political activities.
- **Provides consistency with other states and federal case law.** The precepts outlined in SB 166 are consistent with currently existing laws in other states, including Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The legislation also reinforces the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Ysura v. Pocatello Education Association*, 129 S.Ct 1093 (2009), which affirmed a state's ability to prohibit the automatic collection of dues for political purposes from members of a public employee union.