

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania State House Bill 1507 and State Senate Bill 1034, deceptively known as “Paycheck Protection” legislation, limit the ability of public sector unions to collectively bargain by ending employers’ obligation to make automatic deductions of union dues; and,

WHEREAS, these payroll deductions have been in place for years, are often one of the first agreements made by the parties in collective bargaining, and have minuscule financial impact on the state government; and,

WHEREAS, the payroll system is nearly completely automated and with the number of deductions already being made for medical insurance, retirement accounts, and other deductions at the request of the employee or employer, the added costs for the deductions of political contributions is diminutive; and,

WHEREAS, the union is tasked with representing all workers whether they pay dues or not, and this money can only be used for union activities such as contract negotiation and providing legal representation in the grievance process; and,

WHEREAS, this bill and other bills throughout the country are part of a larger plan to undermine workers’ basic rights; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would hamper workers’ abilities to organize unions and represent themselves in negotiations with employers, leaving them open to any number of assaults on salary, benefits, and working conditions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh, urge the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Senate to oppose all efforts that seek to attack the collective bargaining rights of public sector union workers through House Bill 1507 and Senate Bill 1034.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Will of Council shall be circulated to the President Pro Tem of the Pennsylvania Senate, the Speaker of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and the Pittsburgh state House and Senate delegations.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman

Co-sponsored by Council President Bruce Kraus, Councilmembers Deb Gross, Darlene M. Harris, Theresa Kail-Smith, Natalia Rudiak, Corey O’Connor, R. Daniel Lavelle, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Mary Beth Doheny
Clerk of Council

In Council, June 24, 2014