

## **Fighting Back. Sign the Petition to Amend the Michigan Constitution**

The Michigan legislature has been involved in a session-long orgy of anti-labor legislation. While the rhetoric has been anti-public employee, most of the fury of the actual legislation has been directed against K-12 teachers. Teachers have been burdened with so-called "right to work" legislation. Automatic deduction of union dues by employers have been banned, forcing unions to individually collect dues from their members. Public unions are threatened with draconian punishment should they strike, or attempt to talk unionism on employer property. All public employees but us are subject to a form of discrimination, banning health care coverage to domestic partners. The balance between employers and employees has been drastically altered on behalf of the employers. While most of the legislation does not immediately affect us, given the autonomy of the state higher educational system (with the exception of PA 54 which gives a one-sided advantage to employers during negotiations), there should be little doubt that our legislators have no compunction about imposing similar laws against our smaller Higher Education unions. If nothing changes we will soon be the target of the same legislation directed against the public school teachers.

The entire Michigan labor movement has united to fight back. They have initiated a petition drive put a new constitutional amendment to a vote. This amendment would guarantee Michigan citizens the right to collectively bargain and put an end to the attacks on public and private workers. We encourage everyone to both sign the petition and are asking for volunteers to help collect signatures.

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