

Petition to Amend the Michigan Constitution to Protect Collective Bargaining

Today AFT Michigan has joined with labor and community groups to launch a petition drive to amend the Michigan Constitution to protect collective bargaining rights and strengthen working families. We are proud to be a part of this effort to be proactive in the face of the anti-worker measures coming out of Lansing.

There are currently more than 80 bills pending in the Michigan Legislature that weaken protections for working people and dismantle collective bargaining rights. Just last week, the Legislature approved a bill (SB 971) that bans collective bargaining rights for graduate student research employees who were trying to organize with us. This week, it looks like the legislature will take up a bill (HB 4929) to ban the collection of union dues through payroll deduction.

Extreme Lansing politicians, and the CEO's that pay for their campaigns, are making a concerted effort to strike back at those who fight back – union members who have the protection of a collective bargaining agreement and can raise their voice.

We need to pass this constitutional amendment in order to protect your jobs, your benefits and your voice. We need to collect 500,000 signatures of registered voters by July 1 in order to get it on the November 2012 ballot.

Our initial plan of action is to focus on AFT Michigan members. Each AFT Michigan local will receive petitions over the next two weeks. We are asking each local to utilize their member-to-member structure to contact every member in every workplace to sign the petition. We want all petitions back to AFT Michigan by Spring Break, or around the 1st of April.

Our second phase will be to ask our locals and their members to work their communities – neighborhoods, community or school events, etc. to collect signatures from family, friends, neighbors and the general public.

If you can assist, either within your local or in your community, please sign-up today! We will put you in touch with the campaign in your local or community. Please visit http://action.aft.org/c/368/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=6296

The middle class was created right here in Michigan. Now it's time that middle class people speak out to protect their wages, benefits and workplace safety from continued attacks by extreme politicians in Lansing!

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