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Press Release

A Preview of What's to Come: SB 830 Still Silences the Voices of Teachers, Firefighters, Police Officers and Florida Workers!

Amendment to SB 830 in Senate Rules Committee NOT a compromise Amendment!

A meeting of the Senate Rules Committee today provided an excellent preview of what the Florida Legislature will look like if SB 830, the "worker gag bill" is approved this session. A late-filed, secret amendment was offered just minutes before a vote on the bill. This amendment is designed to confuse, confound and hide the fact that this legislation is nothing but an attempt to shut working Floridians out of the legislative and political process. Furthermore, Senator Don Gaetz shut down discussion on the measure, blocking the ability for workers who traveled from around the state to be heard on the issue.

While the amendment permits limited payroll deduction of union dues to continue, it creates governmental intrusion into a union's business and prevents unions from "directly or indirectly" engaging in political activities, even **if dues are collected without using payroll deduction**. While Senator John Thrasher states that he only wants the state to stop collecting political dues for unions, in fact, his amendment seeks to stop political action by unions.

Proponents of this legislation stated their amendment was a way to bolster limited government; nothing could be further from the truth. This, in essence is an increase to the government's role in policing and enforcing laws targeting the working families of the state. This is a big government take over on the policies and practices of private organization; this is overreach pure and simple!

When labor organizations engage in politics they should be permitted to do so under the exact same laws and rules governing everyone else. This bill as amended will add even more reporting, more forms, more accounting, and dramatically adding more cost and burdens for teachers, law enforcement and firefighters to participate in the very same activities everyone else will engage in without those additional burdens. This bill will put restrictions on labor unions that the other 300 plus organizations that utilize payroll deduction offered by the state will still be exempted from. This is a continued blatant attack on the rights and voice of working families in the state of Florida.

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For Release April 15th, 2011