



# Public Services

## The Teamster Public Services News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary-Treasurer • Michael Filler, Director



# UNITED in *Fighting* BACK

**A**s public sector Teamsters know, attacks on government workers anywhere is a concern for all of us.

There is a concerted effort by corporations and right wing political strategists to destroy collective bargaining rights and lower the wages of middle-class workers across this nation.

“An injury to one is an injury to all,” Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa said at a huge rally in Madison, Wisconsin. “We are in it for the long haul and we will win this fight. This is going on in Ohio and Indiana and other states. We are all working together to fight this.”

“It’s not just the labor movement that’s rejuvenated, it’s the whole middle class that’s united now in stopping the war on workers.”

“The recession, not unions, caused budget problems for local and state governments,” Hoffa added. “Government deficits should not be an excuse to take away protections for the middle class and to destroy our economic security.”

The Teamsters are working hard in every state to keep workers’ rights from being eroded. Here are some examples of the work they are doing:

### Collective Bargaining Fight in OHIO

President Hoffa was among the thousands who attended a rally in early

March in Columbus to save the middle class and protest against a measure that would strip collective bargaining rights from public sector employees.

The measure has passed in the Senate and goes to the House. It has to pass both Houses and be signed into law before April 6 to go into effect this year. If that happens, Gary Tiboni, President of Local 436 and President of Joint Council 41, said Teamsters will move to get the measure on a referendum this fall so it can be voted on by the public. If the measure goes into effect after April 6, they will have to wait until next year to get the referendum.

“This fight, as well as battles in other states, has united the labor movement across the country,” Tiboni said. “I have never seen labor as much together on one issue for a long, long time. The fire is burning right now and we have to take advantage of it.”

“We won’t stop fighting for our rights,” Tiboni said.

### Battling Nonstop in NEW HAMPSHIRE

Teamsters in New Hampshire are working hard to make sure laws affecting labor unions are not severely curtailed, said David Laughton, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 633.

Legislation to make New Hampshire a “right-to-work” state has passed the House; the Senate has yet to take action.

*continued on page 2*

## A Message From Division Director Michael Filler

### The Teamsters' Commitment to Public Employees Remains **STRONG**

The growth in public sector unionism over many years has motivated anti-labor forces to undertake dramatic change throughout the United States. Despite the claim that financial conditions warrant revocation or significant alteration of collective bargaining rights and terms that allow unions to effectively represent their members, the real aim is to alter the power dynamic.



After the terrorists' attacks on Sept. 11, the federal government embarked on a campaign to eliminate collective bargaining under the guise of national security, even though union-represented police and firefighters were the first responders to the World Trade Center buildings in Manhattan. The prior administration saw this as an opportunity to diminish the power of unions.

Now, budget deficits and reduced government revenues are being used as the basis to wipe unions off the map in many states across America. Our global allies are quite surprised about such treatment. In a recent meeting I had with representatives of the Republic of Germany, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Labor indicated that, unlike the U.S., unions were valued and played a key role in crafting solutions to Germany's economic challenges.

The Public Services Division will continue to support the efforts of Teamster Joint Councils and locals to aggressively represent public employees, even where legislation adverse to public employees has become law.



## **UNITED** in *Fighting BACK*

But with Republicans controlling both the House and Senate, Teamsters are battling hard to defeat the measure.

"There are attacks on pensions and health care for public employees and curtailing collective bargaining is on the horizon," Laughton said. "The governor is still supportive of our issues but the state Legislature can override his veto."

Laughton said Local 633 members are at the statehouse every day with their lobbyists. They are hand-billing, phone banking, sending information to members to make sure everyone is informed about what is taking place at the statehouse.

"We're attending meetings regularly. Nothing goes on without our presence being felt there," Laughton said.

### **Health Insurance, Retirement Plans Under Siege in IOWA**

In Iowa, a bill has been introduced that would deny unions the ability to

negotiate on health insurance and retirement plans. It would also allow the state Legislature or the governor to veto decisions made by an arbitrator in cases dealing with public sector workers. The bill would also require everyone to pay 30 percent of their health care costs.

"One of our main concerns is that if this bill is successful, what's next?" said Gary Dunham, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 238 in Cedar Rapids. "We're already a right-to-work-for-less state in Iowa."

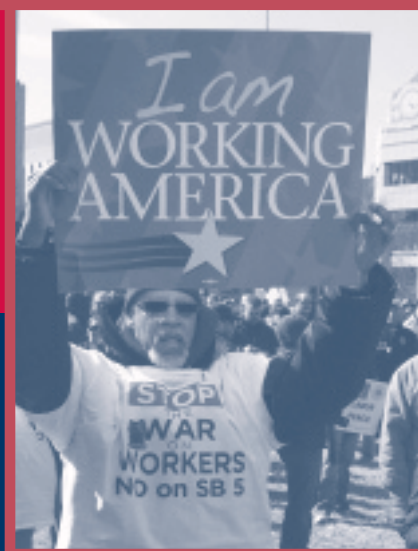
"Another concern is that these bills are just trying to take rights away from public sector workers," said Dale Walter, a business agent for Local 238.

Teamsters in Iowa have been busy speaking out against these bills, and attending marches and rallies.

"These issues have completely energized our base," Dunham said. "We need to keep up the fight."



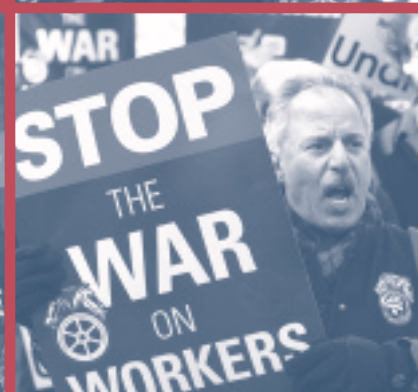
# STOP



# THE WAR ON WORKERS



Rallies in support of workers' rights are taking place all across the country. Send in information about your rally, along with your pictures. All information can be sent to Donna De La Cruz at [ddelacruz@teamster.org](mailto:ddelacruz@teamster.org)



## Fighting for Workers' Rights

The Teamsters are so proud to represent more than 240,000 hardworking men and women in our Public Services Division. I'm even prouder that Teamsters all over this country have rallied, protested, written letters to their newspapers and traveled hundreds of miles to speak out on behalf of public servants.

As governors around this country try to ram anti-worker bills through their state legislatures to end collective bargaining, curtail pensions, increase health care premiums and do away with other benefits, Americans in the public and private sector have stood up and said "no." A very loud Teamster "no."

"No" to declining wages, "no" to economic instability that threatens working families, "no" to greedy CEOs and predatory corporations that try to drain every last penny from our wallets, and "no" to the politicians who campaign for the middle class but then turn around and dance to the tune of the super-wealthy after they are sworn in.

What some lawmakers are trying to do in Wisconsin, Iowa, New Hampshire, Ohio, Missouri and other states is to silence unions. They know that unions make it harder for corporations to pass laws that weaken protections for middle-class families—protections like Social Security and pensions, food and product safety laws, collective bargaining rights and minimum wage requirements.



As Teamsters, we know that governments often try to balance their budgets on the backs of their workers. What the ongoing labor protests have shown is that finally the American public is with us.

Poll after poll shows that the majority of voters side with government workers and unions in these battles. At the rallies I've attended, I've met college students, people in the private sector, all appalled at the attacks on public service workers.

This fight is just beginning. We are in it to win. On behalf of the Teamsters, I want to thank all of you for the hard work and dedicated service you provide every day for the communities you serve. You are everyday heroes.

*DRIVE is a political committee that furthers labor-related goals, including making contributions to support candidates for local, state and federal offices. Individuals may refuse to join or contribute without fear of reprisal.*

Find out more about this exciting program by talking to your local union, or on the web at [www.teamster.org/drive](http://www.teamster.org/drive)

**Take a Stand for Working Families**

Visit [www.teamster.org](http://www.teamster.org)

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20001

**Public Services** The Teamster Public Services



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Washington, DC  
Permit No. 4481