

On Thursday, January 29, the [House Business and Employment Committee](#) voted in favor of the mislabeled "right to work" bill, put forth in our legislature under another misnomer as "[Employee Preference Act.](#)" Please make a thank you call to each of the State Reps below.

Say, "Thank you for supporting educators and all working New Mexicans and opposing [HB 75!](#)"
Legislative Update #4

All numbers are area code 505.

George Dodge (D-Santa Rosa) 986-4227 george.dodgejr@nmlegis.gov

Miguel Garcia (D-Albuquerque) 986-4432 miguel.garcia@nmlegis.gov

Debbie Rodella (D-Española) 986-4220 debbie.rodella@nmlegis.gov

Carl Trujillo (D-Santa Fe) 986-4215 carl.trujillo@nmlegis.gov

Jim Trujillo (D-Santa Fe) 986-4336 jimtrujillo@msn.com

Deming area (D) Representative Donna Irwin voted wrong,

The following Representatives stood to testify against the measure as well and deserve our thanks too!

Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero - (D-Santa Fe) 986-4221 pat.roybalcaballero@nmlegis.gov

Rep. Christine Trujillo - (D- Abq) 986-4255 christine.trujillo@nmlegis.gov

Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton - (D – Santa Fe) 986-4757 sheryl.stapleton@nmlegis.gov

NEA HOBBS member Alicia Woody spoke eloquently against the bill; one of over seventy five people to do so. Alicia made sure to point out though she was not originally a member, our NEA stood up for her when she had a workplace concern and needed representation. She then joined and has been in active with her Local association ever since. She mentioned this in response to testimony by the bill sponsor, Representative Dennis Roch (R) Texico / Tucumcari. Roch made the false claim that employees have to be a member, or have to pay their fair share fees, when there is a Collective Bargaining Agreement. As a Superintendent in Texico, and former Asst, Supt. in Tucumcari, where we have "presumptive" status, he should know otherwise. Ashley noted she joined by choice, and even as she was helped, no one forced her to join. Albuquerque, KRQE, Channel 13 interviewed her for their story.

Only 13 people, all representing businesses, spoke for the measure. Many falsely claimed they were speaking on behalf of workers.

NEA-NM Government Relations Director Charles Goodmacher was one of the first to speak on your behalf. These were his comments:

"Let's be clear - no public school employee in New Mexico is forced to be a member of a union. Every school employee in districts which our union represents has the right to make their choice now, under current law. This bill limits that choice.

It is unfair, unnecessary, and hurts New Mexico's middle class.

Let's also be clear about this - the current statute only stipulates these issues must be bargained over - not that an agreement must be reached. This bill is unnecessary.

What does that mean? It means everywhere that there is a union it is allowed through a collective bargaining agreement, it is so because the School Boards in those districts have agreed it is in their best interest to make that agreement to allow individual employees the choice of whether to join a union.

PEBA currently allows fair share to be negotiated but it does force our unions to represent every employee within the bargaining units. This is why keeping fair share is fair.

If anything, current law is unfair to the employees who voluntarily choose to pay to their dues and therefore carry on our backs fellow employees who currently choose not to.

But where we do have collective bargaining, what is that agreement? It is a contract between both the employees, represented through their union, and their employer, the school board represented in negotiations through their administrators who do that bargaining of them.

This bill is unfair to the rights of the locally-elected school boards as well as to school employees. Of course the parallel is true in the private sector too.

This is an unnecessary attack on local control of local public schools by locally elected boards. This bill represents the growth of big government. It says to school leaders and school employees they are not wise enough to make, or not to make on this issue. This bill disrespects the public education community.

It is an unwarranted destruction of the rights a locally elected government to choose the labor relations policies it deems fair and appropriate.

I urge you to vote against this bill."

All or most of the five hour hearing will be broadcast on the web at www.centerforprogressandjustice.com, thanks to our sister union IATSE local 480. Also soon you will be able to view on YouTube brief statements made by many of our members attending our legislative training yesterday, thanks to our union brothers from AFSCME.

The bill heads next to [House Judiciary Committee](#), and likely will be heard there this coming Monday or Tuesday. The House majority is moving this anti-worker legislation as fast as they can, and it is expected to pass out of the chamber easily. The real battle lies ahead in the Senate.