

State Battles: As we are all witnessing, workers across the country are under attack. While we have seen attacks in Wisconsin and Ohio, we have also seen Right to Work (for Less) battles in Maine and New Hampshire, paycheck deception threats in Florida and Kansas, and efforts to eliminate PLAs prove successful in Iowa and Idaho, just to name a few. For your convenience, please note a few state-specific updates below:

Wisconsin: As we know, Governor Walker and Republican legislators revealed their union-busting intentions last week, when passage of Walker's budget adjustment bill was passed out of the Senate, ending a three-week stalemate between Republicans and fleeing Democrats. As was noted in General President Hoffa's comments last week following the passage of the bill, the battle in Wisconsin is far from over. In fact, recall efforts against 8 Republican Senators is already underway and the Teamsters are actively participating. Meanwhile, we have less than 292 days, 18 hours before we can begin recall efforts against Governor Walker (check out the War on Workers website for an up-to-the-minute clock at <http://www.teamster.org/content/stophewaronworkers>). For those interested, we also have additional info on recall efforts at <http://www.teamster.org/content/wisconsinrecall>.

Ohio: Despite 25,000 protestors (including General President Hoffa), the Ohio Senate passed a bill to eliminate collective bargaining for public employees last week by the slimmest of margins – one vote. The bill is currently before the House, and we anticipate its passage. Once passed, the IBT is already preparing to work with allies to place a citizen's veto on the 2011 (or 2012) ballot. We will have additional information on this in the coming weeks.

Indiana: With Republicans threatening to pass a host of anti-worker bills, House Democrats have remained in Illinois to avoid allowing a quorum in the chamber. Republicans are pursuing RTW, PD, and the elimination of collective bargaining, just to name a few. We're hopeful that Governor Mitch Daniels and Republican leadership come to their senses (which they've indicated they will), particularly in light of more than 30,000 protestors storming Indianapolis last week.

Missouri: Late last night, conservative Senators were forced to table a RTW bill in the full chamber as a bi-partisan group of Senators filibustered the anti-worker bill. While the bill could be heard again in coming weeks, we're keeping a close eye on a possible legislative referral or a ballot initiative in 2012. Regardless, Missouri Teamsters were out in force yesterday to derail RTW.

Michigan: This afternoon, the House passed a bill to allow for emergency managers to remove collective bargaining in communities in the case of financial crises. The bill is actually quite scary – it also allows for the removal of elected officials without approval and consolidation of towns – and should be signed by the Governor in coming days.

To be clear, workers and their unions are the target of the right wing, but I would stress a number of victories throughout the country that we will highlight when possible (like Missouri last night), or keep under wraps for the time being. That said, we have a significant amount of work ahead of us.

4.4.11: Teamsters Make a Promise: To continue efforts to highlight the nationwide attack on workers, the Teamsters Union along with our allies in organized labor and the progressive community, will be participating in a national solidarity event. The IBT will be blast-faxing information on the national day of action to all Local Unions and Joint Councils tomorrow (I will forward the fax to you as soon as possible). We will be calling on members to not only learn more about the attacks that are currently underway, but more importantly to take action, including on efforts to educate colleagues, friends and family, and neighbors alike about the benefits of the middle class and how organized labor get us there. More information on the day of action will be distributed tomorrow.

Solidarity Rallies Update : With regard to the ongoing solidarity rallies across the country, I do want to thank everyone for your efforts. At this time, more than 350 events have taken place. More impressively, well over 100,000 Teamsters have shown up to these events, 35,000 signs have been sent throughout the country, and no less than 15 Teamster 18-wheelers have joined rallies throughout the country

Thank you again to everyone for your efforts on these state battles – please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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