



8 March 2011

Dear Senator,

The Alliance for Worker Freedom (AWF), an organization established in 2003 to combat anti-worker legislation and promote free and open labor markets, strongly supports pending legislation in the Arizona Senate—SCR 1028—which would establish Paycheck Protection for Arizona’s workers. This legislation supports and defends the basic right of association for Arizona’s workers, thereby, increasing the transparency and accountability of labor organizations.

A Heritage Foundation report found that nearly 70 percent of union dues are spent on political activity and staff compensation. SCR 1028, would prohibit unions from using member dues to fund political activity without the written consent of the individual worker. Allowing workers the option of withholding their dues from the support of a radical Big-Labor agenda protects their basic right of free association, and greatly reduces the money spent by labor organizations in support of their often problematic ideology. Under the current convoluted rules, Arizona workers unknowingly financially support political candidates they strongly disagree with.

The same Heritage study also found that in states with Paycheck Protection in place, union campaign donations fell by nearly 50 percent. This fact proves that, when given the choice, workers by-and-large do not side with their union’s political persuasions. Coupling the requirement for written consent with the refund mechanism also included in SCR 1028 will put Arizona on the fast track to curbing the power of these organizations, which are more concerned with their political power than the well being of their members.

Finally, this Paycheck Protection initiative compels increased accountability and transparency within union political activities. SCR 1028 creates an environment in which union bosses are more responsive to the will of their members and gives workers the information they need to make an informed decision regarding how their dues are spent.

The Alliance for Worker Freedom supports these efforts to protect the rights of Arizona’s workers, and encourages speedy passage of this legislation for the sake of Arizona’s larger economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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