



| Senate Bill 5 | March 31, 2011

Update: Public Sector Collective Bargaining Reform

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Yesterday, the Ohio House and Senate approved Senate Bill 5, the public sector collective bargaining bill. Governor John Kasich is expected to sign the bill into law tonight.

This bill is being vilified by union leaders as an attack on the middle class. But the truth is that Senate Bill 5 stands up for Ohio taxpayers. Senate Bill 5 will help ensure that our state and local governments have enough money to fund a strong safety net to protect Ohioans when they are most vulnerable, without raising taxes.

[Here are the Facts about Senate Bill 5](#)

This bill levels the playing field between Ohio taxpayers and the government workers who serve them. Senate Bill 5 preserves the right of Ohio's 350,000 hard working public employees, including police officers, fire fighters and teachers to collectively bargain on their wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment. This is a right that federal government employees and government employees in many other states **do not** have.

Senate Bill 5 does not impact private sector union contracts or current union contracts with government employees. It prevents government workers who choose not to join a union from being forced to pay a portion of their salaries to unions, and prevents all union workers from being forced to donate to union political action committees, unless they choose to do so.

In Ohio, private sector employees pay an average of 23 percent of their health insurance costs, while many government employees pay much less. Senate Bill 5 will require all government employees to pay 15 percent of the cost of their health insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 5 provides our school superintendents, mayors,

county commissioners and other government officials with the flexibility they need to ensure efficient, cost-effective government institutions. Government provides many valuable services and we must make sure it can continue to do so without tax increases that further erode Ohio's prosperity. To see a video with two respected Ohio mayors and a county commissioner talking about how Senate Bill 5 will help them better manage their communities, [click here](#). This battle is not over. The unions plan to circulate petitions to put Senate Bill 5 on the November ballot. The Ohio Chamber will continue to provide you with information about Senate Bill 5, including more details about it in our April 1st *Legislative Update*. You can help Ohio taxpayers learn the truth about Senate Bill 5 by educating your family, neighbors and friends about how important it is to Ohio's long term competitiveness and job creation.