



The Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties
with news from the
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Sen. Andrew Brock
Republican

**This Week:
Forced
Unionization**

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Liberals in the Legislature Push North Carolina Towards Unionization

Democratic members of the General Assembly have been working hard this session to give unions a foothold in the Tar Heel State. At least five different pieces of legislation have been introduced in both the House and Senate that seek to fundamentally alter our laws protecting workers from forced unionism.

North Carolina, as a Right to Work state, allows employees to decide for themselves whether or not to join or financially support a union. However, Democrats in the General Assembly hope to chip away at these protections. "I am completely opposed to forcing people to join labor unions if they don't want to," Senator Brock said. "I'm also concerned that trying to force labor unions on the people of North Carolina will make our state less competitive in the global market. Our state has already been hard hit by globalization, with many jobs getting outsourced overseas. We don't need to make our situation worse by introducing labor unions into the mix."

For more information about North Carolina's Right to Work laws see the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation's website at www.nrtw.org

UNIONS GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR WITH THE STATE'S FIREFIGHTERS

Senate bill 1271, introduced by Democrat John Snow, aims to expand the practice of automated payroll deductions to support the activities of the State's firefighter and EMS "employee association."

"To me," Senator Brock said, "an 'employee association' is really just a poorly veiled attempt at starting up a union and payroll deductions are nothing more than a union using a taxpayer-funded system to do their accounting for them. There's no reason that these associations should get any special privileges from the State of North Carolina. We don't allow members of churches, clubs, fraternal organizations, or political groups to have automatic deductions taken from their paycheck, so why should we do it for unions?"

Senate bill 1271 passed the Senate on May 24, 2007 by a vote of 29-18 with the entire Democratic caucus supporting the bill and the Republican caucus opposing it.

Senate Bill Pushes for Unionization of State Workers

Democratic Senator Larry Shaw has introduced a piece of legislation to chart new territory for unions in North Carolina by introducing them into state government. Senate bill 1543 would allow state employees to engage in collective bargaining and force the state to recognize employee labor unions.

"This bill would end North Carolina's status as a Right to Work State," commented Senator Brock. "For example, for the first time in our history we would force employees to give up a portion of their paychecks as union dues even if they do not wish to be members of the union or support its activities. One need only look at state's like New York and California where state employees are unionized to see that this bill is a step in the wrong direction for North Carolina's state government."

The Senate has not voted on this bill as of yet; however, should the S1543 make its way to the Senate floor Senator Brock intends to strongly oppose it.

"Why should we grant the unions taxpayer funded accounting services and deny, our churches, civic groups, and charities from the same benefit?"

- Senator Brock on the inequity of doing automatic payroll deductions for unions but not religious, political, or civic organizations

Democratic House Members Put Public Safety Officials On the Path Towards Unionization

In yet another attempt to begin the process of unionization in North Carolina some of the most liberal members of the State House have joined together to support a bill to grant certain rights to the employee associations of public safety officials.

"I think this is a bad idea," Senator Brock said. "Public safety officials are vital to our state. We don't want to put ourselves in a position where the safety of our citizens is subject to the whims of union leaders who decide when their employees go on strike. Like all the other bills we've seen this session, H1548 is just another attempt to end North Carolina's proud history of being a Right to Work state."