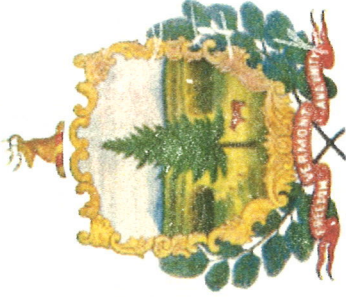


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MAR 14 2011

AFCOME COUNCIL 24
AFL-CIO

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 7

House resolution expressing support for the collective bargaining rights of Wisconsin state, public school, municipal, and University of Wisconsin employees

Offered by: Representatives Davis of Washington, Moran of Wardsboro, Ancel of Calais, Atkins of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Royalton, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Font-Russell of Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larson of Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mitchell of Barnard, Mrowicki of Putney, Munger of South Burlington, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Partridge of Windham, Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Poirier of Barre City, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Trieber of Rockingham, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Weston of Burlington, Wizowaty of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Albany

Whereas, public servants are our friends, neighbors, and constituents, and through their carrying out our legislative enactments, they enable us to meet our commitments to all citizens, and

Whereas, Wisconsin was one of the earliest states to guarantee public employees the right to organize and bargain collectively, and Vermont granted similar rights in the 1960s, and

Whereas, recently, the word "union" has been purposely distorted, and we often forget our nation is a union of otherwise self-governing states and that the term is used in wedding ceremonies and to describe the First Amendment freedom to associate in groups which are advancing our legitimate interests, a right that states' governors are obliged to observe always, and

Whereas, historically, labor unions are responsible for the civilized working conditions we take for granted, including 40-hour work weeks, laws pertaining to child labor and health and safety conditions, overtime pay, and health insurance and pension coverage, and

Whereas, as a central part of our democracy, labor unions are the bulwark of assuring a strong middle-class society, and no democracy denies public employees the right to organize and participate in a union and to negotiate at arm's length and in good faith with their governmental employer, and

Whereas, collective bargaining is neither a weapon nor a bludgeon but rather an enlightened method to resolve disagreements in good faith, and

Whereas, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has requested legislative introduction of his specific proposal to alleviate the state's fiscal problems, and Whereas, in response to Governor Walker's request, the Senate Committee on Organization has introduced Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), "An act relating to state finances, collective bargaining for public employees . . ." and other purposes, and

Whereas, under this bill, employees' right to bargain collectively over working conditions and benefits would be eliminated and only "base wages" of one year's duration could be collectively bargained and only for increases that do not exceed the consumer price index unless a voter referendum to the contrary is approved, and no collectively bargained agreement could be extended beyond a single year, and

Whereas, SB 11 also terminates entirely the collective bargaining rights of the University of Wisconsin System, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, and of certain home care and child health care providers, and

Whereas, Madison, Wisconsin, has become the site of enormous demonstrations in opposition to SB 11, which is an extremely unfortunate proposal that would do great harm to thousands of hard-working Wisconsin public employees, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

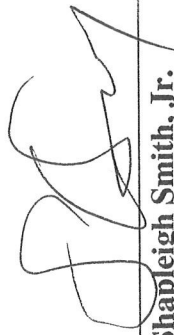
That this body acknowledges despite these hard economic times the great value and worth of municipal, public school, university, and state employees and reaffirms the legitimacy of their right to sit down with their employer in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and be it further

Resolved: That workers in all states, regardless of economic sector and job title or responsibility, must have a basic right to organize and bargain collectively for a fair and just outcome, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body calls upon both Vermonters and the Wisconsin state government to reflect on the valuable role of public sector unions in a civil society and also urges that the state of Wisconsin leave public employees' collective bargaining rights intact, and be it further


Resolved: That this legislative body expresses its strong support for the collective bargaining rights of all Wisconsin public employees and of employees of the University of Wisconsin System and urges unions throughout the nation to stand in solidarity with their Wisconsin public employee colleagues, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Council 24 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Madison, Wisconsin, to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, and to all labor unions in Vermont.



Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Attested to:



Donald G. Milne
Clerk, House of Representatives