



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Carl Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator -Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor - Tom Kohn, Esq. Legal Advisor - Thomas Felice, Staff



PA HOUSE RESOLUTION 436

Recognizing the week of June 24th through 28th, 2024 as “Union Organizing Week” in PA

House of Representatives
Session of 2023 - 2024 Regular Session
MEMORANDUM

From: Representative Nick Pisciotano and Rep. Dan L. Miller
To: All House members
Subject: Recognizing the week of June 24th through 28th, 2024 as “Union Organizing Week” in PA

The birth of Unions in America began in Pennsylvania, starting *soon after the American Revolution* in 1786 with the founding of Philadelphia's Journeymen Cordwainers (printers). From these beginnings, Pennsylvania workers continued to seek protection of their jobs and benefits through unions.

There were the coal miners’ strikes throughout the nineteenth century, culminating in the great anthracite strike of 1902, which resulted in a 10-percent wage raise and a small reduction in work hours.

During the Great Depression, Pennsylvania again emerged as a center of American labor organization, as western Pennsylvania steel workers formed a center of strength with the Steel Workers Organization Committee (SWOC) that in 1942, became the United Steelworkers of America.

While Union membership had declined significantly since the 1970s, especially in the original industrial workers’ organizations, the need for unions has remained as strong as ever, and many new ones formed during the 1970s and 1980s in the ever-growing sectors of white-collar and high-technology jobs. These organizations no longer fight against child labor or excessively long work weeks, as the movement did for much of the nineteenth century. Instead, pressing concerns often involve health care, equitable pay for similar skill, fair treatment on the job, short staffing or forced overtime, and retirement security, especially in the face of multinational corporations cutting back on all these basic needs.

Fast forward to today’s union organizing efforts. Union organizing and formation is at its highest surge with huge wins at Amazon, Starbucks, Dave & Busters, Google and Apple.

Because of Pennsylvania’s long, rich and continuing history of union organizing work, we intend to introduce a resolution marking the week of June 24th through 28th, 2024 as “Union Organizing Week” in PA. **RESOLUTION ATTACHED**



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 436 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY PISCIOTTANO, D. MILLER, VENKAT, SMITH-WADE-EL,
MADSEN, SANCHEZ, WAXMAN, HARKINS, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, HILL-
EVANS, PROBST, DONAHUE, STEELE, HADDOCK, NEILSON, CONKLIN,
CIRESI, BOROWSKI, PARKER, KAZEEM, DELLOSO, CERRATO,
SCHLOSSBERG, GREEN, BOYD AND DEASY, MAY 20, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MAY 20, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 24 through 28, 2024, as "Union
2 Organizing Week" in Pennsylvania, in honor of those workers
3 who have fought for their right to organize and bargain
4 collectively at their workplace.

5 WHEREAS, The right of workers to organize and bargain
6 collectively must be the right of every Pennsylvania worker in
7 every sector of the economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The right to organize and bargain collectively
9 benefits workers by improving workplace safety and providing for
10 fair wages, health care, retirement security, stable schedules,
11 due process, equal pay and other benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, The decision to unionize is entirely the choice of
13 workers; and

14 WHEREAS, Employers benefit from unionization in many ways,
15 including improved productivity, workplace safety and training;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Nonunionized workforces also benefit from unionized

1 workforces through such things as increased wages, benefits and
2 safety standards; and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth and the nation have benefited from
4 Pennsylvania's unionized workforces, which have powered our
5 country, built our middle class and lifted millions from
6 poverty, among other benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, Unions help reduce wage gaps for women workers and
8 discrimination for workers of color; and

9 WHEREAS, Workers often must overcome employer interference in
10 their unionization decision in the form of captive audience
11 meetings and other unfair labor practices; and

12 WHEREAS, Some employers attempt to deny, stall or impede the
13 process of reaching a first contract with a new bargaining unit,
14 in an attempt to circumvent and undermine the will of their
15 workers; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 week of June 24 through 28, 2024, as "Union Organizing Week" in
18 Pennsylvania, in honor of those workers who have fought for
19 their right to organize and bargain collectively at their
20 workplace; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
22 continuing struggle of Pennsylvania workers to organize and
23 bargain collectively at their workplace; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
25 workers to know and exercise their rights, in a manner best
26 suited to improve work environments and their family living
27 conditions, while maintaining the workplace reputation for
28 producing high quality products and services in this
29 Commonwealth.