

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION OF TAXPAYER ASSOCIATIONS

RESOLUTION ENDORSING LEGISLATION BY STATE

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM GABIG BANNING TEACHER STRIKES

IN PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 2006

WHEREAS, the provision of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth is a Constitutional requirement under Article III, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution, and

WHEREAS, a strike in the public sector represents a strike against the public interest, and a public school employee strike represents an actionable breach of duty to members of the public living in that school district, and

WHEREAS, thirty-eight (38) states already prohibit public school teacher strikes, and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks #1 for teacher strikes having the worst record in the United States, with more teacher strikes than any other state, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Pennsylvania had more strikes than all of the other forty-nine states combined, and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of innocent students and their families are continually subjected to teacher strikes in Pennsylvania, including over 44,000 in 2005-2006 alone, and

WHEREAS, the average teacher's salary in Pennsylvania, \$53,200, is the highest in the country when adjusted for cost of living, and

WHEREAS, there is no empirical data to suggest that banning teacher strikes results in a poor deal for teachers, as seven out of the top ten states with the highest average salary prohibit teacher strikes, and

WHEREAS, compulsory interest binding arbitration as a mechanism to resolve school employee contract disputes is a violation of Article III, Section 31 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution, and

WHEREAS, compulsory interest binding arbitration as a mechanism to resolve school employee contract disputes is a violation of taxpayer rights, by empowering unelected and unaccountable arbitrators to set, control, or otherwise influence school taxes, and

WHEREAS, compulsory interest binding arbitration as a mechanism to resolve school employee contract disputes is a violation of the civil rights of non-union school employees by empowering unelected arbitrators to overrule the wishes of a democratically elected employer, and impose compulsory union dues (agency shop) on all school employees, and

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WHEREAS, the state teachers' union (PSEA) has annual revenues of approximately \$84 million, 178,000 members, and spends millions of dollars on political activity and lobbying, with lobbyists being paid upwards of \$130,000 per year, and

WHEREAS, approximately 3,800 non-union teachers are forced to pay money to the PSEA as a condition of their employment, and

WHEREAS, current law allows Pennsylvania teachers to strike and disrupt the educational process without any risk of financial harm to striking teachers, adding to the rapid escalation of educational costs by creating an environment where school boards must choose between further harm to students or irreparable financial harm to the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the undersigned leaders of taxpayer associations on behalf of their memberships across Pennsylvania, by their signatures, strongly support and endorse legislation proposed by State Representative William Gabig, making teacher strikes illegal in Pennsylvania, including financial penalties for any public school employee or labor union that violates the law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the undersigned leaders of taxpayer associations on behalf of their memberships across Pennsylvania, by their signatures, DEMAND that the Legislature immediately and without hesitation sponsor and support the bill proposed by Representative Gabig, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the undersigned leaders and their members strongly OPPOSE any legislation based on resolving teacher contract disputes through compulsory binding arbitration.

Signed this 21st day of July in the year 2006

Signatories:

William M. Poff representing Coatesville Taxpayers Alliance from the county of Chester
Raymond Zaleski representing Coatesville Taxpayers Alliance from the county of Chester
Robert P. ... representing PTCC from the county of BERKS
Janice Baldwin representing PTCC from the county of Berks
Joanne Falone representing Taxpayers of BHASD from the county of Berks

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Floyd Falcom representing TAXPAYERS ASSOC. BHASD from the county of BERKS

Tom Vici representing Stop Teacher Strikes, Inc from the county of Bucks

St. Gall representing Stop Teacher Strikes Inc from the county of Bucks

Landra Paulsee representing South Eastern Tax Reform Coalition from the county of YORK

Margie Lavin representing SOUTH EASTERN TAX REFORM COALITION from the county of York

Nancy Delp representing Dallastown Area Taxpayers Coalition from the county of York

Chris representing Dallastown Area Taxpayers Coalition from the county of YORK

Robert Rymyon representing The Patriot's Voice from the county of Columbia/Luzerne

Rebecca C. Heller representing The Patriot's Voice from the county of Columbia/Luzerne

Sharon Hughes representing Quality Safe Responsible Ed MORRISVILLE CITIZENS FOR MO. City for from the county of Bucks

Diane Hughes representing Quality, Safe, Respons. Ed for taxpayers survival from the county of Bucks

Thelma Helwig representing Group from the county of Columbia

R. E. Gotshall representing Taxpayer Survival Group from the county of S. Columbia

Tom representing Bradford County Citizens Concerned from the county of Bradford

Wanda representing BRADFORD County Citizens Concerned from the county of BRADFORD

a. k. Hawk representing ELVERSON VOTERS FORUM from the county of CHESTER

Aileen K. Bone representing Daniel Boone Taxpayers Assoc from the county of Berks


Jan Bolger representing Princeton Area Taxpayers Assoc. from the county of Bucks

Karen C. Bulett representing York City Taxpayers Council from the county of York

Jacqueline Blumstein representing Daniel Boone Taxpayers Assoc from the county of Berks

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 representing YORK COUNTY TAXPAYERS COUNCIL from the county of YORK

_____ representing _____ from the county of _____

_____ representing _____ from the county of _____

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