

JUN 10
2015

UNION UPDATE

NEW ATTACK LAUNCHED ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS

Ballot initiative threatens state worker retirement security

A coalition of anti-union, anti-public employee groups, including the National Right to Work Committee, launched their latest attack against public employee pensions and the hard-earned retirement security of state workers.

Their misleading campaign, called the “Voter Empowerment Act of 2016,” would undermine collective bargaining and require voter approval for changes to pensions and other retirement benefits, including medical insurance. The initiative will soon move into the signature-gathering phase and will appear on the ballot next year.

“This dangerous initiative is a real threat to the financial security of our members and all public employees,” said Yvonne R. Walker, Local 1000 president. “It is more important than ever to become a member of Local 1000, to continue building the power necessary as we take up the fight against this new attack on our pensions.”

Sweeping changes in retirement and health care

This is the third attack against public employee unions in just the last four years. This time, the proponents want to make sweeping changes

to California’s pension laws that gut the sacred promise of defined-benefit pensions made between public employers and their workers.

Sacramento Bee reporter Jon Ortiz writes that “The proposal would also apply to other retirement benefits, such as medical insurance, aiming to cut what the proponents say are soaring retirement costs that have driven some cities into bankruptcy.”

Ortiz continues that “Other provisions would prohibit government employers from paying more than half the cost of employee retirement benefits without voter approval and block politicians and government agencies from suing or taking other actions to impede voter-approved ballot measures regarding employee compensation or retirement benefits.”



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—Yvonne R. Walker
President

Stay Informed

Local 1000’s research, legal and legislative departments are working now to review and thoroughly understand the myriad threats contained in this new pension attack, including specifics about how Local 1000-represented employees will be affected.

Follow Local 1000’s analysis and news updates at seiu1000.org, Facebook and Twitter.

GET INVOLVED: Join the fight for our pensions and health care benefits

Now is the time to build
the power necessary to
protect our retirement

Become a Local 1000 member today.
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Members join the fight for child care reform



“Our hard work is going to break the cycle of poverty caused by lack of quality, affordable care for families.”

—Camille Mahan-Carr
EDD, Stockton



Activists blocked 10th Street traffic in support of AB 548

Parent and provider activists rally at the Capitol in final push for child care reform bill

Parents and providers pushing for substantive relief in the state’s child care system are closer than ever to real reform and showed solidarity at a June 3 rally at the Capitol in a final push for SB 548, the Raising Child Care Quality and Accessibility Act.

Sponsored by Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, SB 548 seeks to fix California’s child care system and break the cycle of poverty caused by lack of quality, affordable care for families

Organized by the Raising California coalition of unions, child care providers, womens’ and community groups, the rally pushed to keep the bill top-of-mind for lawmakers. After a day of speakers including civil rights icon Dolores Huerta and a march where several activists participated in planned civil disobedience until they were arrested, SB 548 was the talk of the Capitol.

Local 1000 member Camille Mahan-Carr, a Stockton mother of three, told her personal tale of how California’s lack of quality, affordable child care affected her and her family. Unable to get stable early childhood care for her youngest son, now 8, who now struggles with learning disabilities that Mahan-Carr believes could have been recognized and helped if he

had had quality early childhood education. She became active on the child care issue so other families don’t have to go through what she went through.

SB 548 would increase child care slots for the low-income families who use payment vouchers, establish new training partnerships with the state to improve quality of care, authorize a study of best practices and, importantly, extend collective bargaining rights to family child care providers to give them the power to advocate for themselves and for the families they serve.

The collective bargaining component benefits providers, students and parents alike, ensuring stable, reduced rates and a better quality of care. “Providers will be able to bring in more staff and more staff means more slots, said Mahan-Carr. “And, more resources will be available for learning materials for the children. “

SB 548 is poised to bring real reform to the state’s broken system. But, as Mahan-Carr points out, SB 548 should be the beginning of something larger “I’m feeling excited. I’m hoping our bill gets passed,” she said. “But I’m more so waiting on it to go national. They need to think of the next generation.”