



Missouri NEA Communications Briefing

Paycheck deception poses serious threat to educators

An effort to silence educators and unions

MNEA believes that all students deserve the opportunity to attend a quality public school.

The Issue

Paycheck deception laws, at their core, are attempts to limit the voices of educators, union members and other public employees by creating burdensome legal hurdles. They rob union members and associations of their right to use payroll deduction for payment of union dues or voluntary contributions for political action.

Paycheck deception attempts to create burdensome logistic hurdles that interfere with how dues and voluntary contributions are collected and often require re-signing all paperwork every year. Paycheck deception bills have been filed annually in recent years.

Public and private sector employers use payroll deduction because it is the most efficient, transparent, and cost effective method for employees to send dues and voluntary contributions. Under Missouri law, associations must reimburse employers (school districts) for any costs associated with payroll deduction.

Challenges

It's your paycheck. Combating paycheck deception legislation requires MNEA members to reinforce with elected officials that educators earn their paychecks, and no one has the right to interfere with their decision to be MNEA members.

MNEA's Position

Paycheck deception bills are about extremist politics and are designed to undermine the

combined voice of educators through MNEA and tilt the political field toward corporations and the wealthy. The key backers of these attacks on MNEA members are the same groups that consistently try to block increases in the minimum wage, dismantle job safety laws and cut Medicaid, education and pensions.

Paycheck deception measures are unnecessary because no worker can be forced to fund a union's political and legislative activities. Union members choose whether to join the union, set their own dues, elect their own leaders and vote on how and where their money will be spent. Corporations, by contrast, don't give shareholders, employees or customers any say in their political activities.

MNEA members should have the same right as anyone else to make their voices heard in politics.

How This Affects Educators

Passage of paycheck deception legislation would require MNEA members and MNEA to re-sign all membership paperwork every year for as long as they are educators.

Such legislation would increase costs for MNEA, members and local school districts by creating unnecessary paperwork to manage a process that costs school districts nothing now.

Paycheck deception legislation limits the ability of educators to pull together money to combat anti-public education efforts and ballot initiatives while allowing corporations and the wealthy to spend millions influencing the political process.

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Your Role

Public education issues play a significant role in almost every legislative session. Legislators will debate key policy issues such as teacher tenure and evaluation, school funding, open enrollment, paycheck deception and vouchers.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Visit www.mnea.org to sign up for the *MNEA Legislative Update* and keep informed on education issues throughout the legislative session.
2. Attend MNEA Capitol Action Days.
3. Attend an MNEA legislative reception in your area.
4. Sign up to become an MNEA Education Advocate. Go to www.mnea.org, and select "Issues & Action" and then "Education Advocates Program" from the orange menu at the top of the page.
5. MNEA also asks you to start a dialogue with your legislators to engage them in a discussion about public education and education issues.

Together, Missouri NEA members can make a positive difference for our students and our public schools.

For more information about this topic and other education policy issues, visit
www.mnea.org/briefings

Find MNEA's Legislative Platform at www.mnea.org/Missouri/PlatformPriorities.aspx

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