



May 5, 2015

TO: Members, Pennsylvania Senate

RE: Oppose Senate Bills 643, 644, 645

On behalf of our 80,000 hardworking members, we strongly urge you to **oppose Senate Bills 643, 644, and 645**. These bills mark an unprecedented intrusion into the good faith collective bargaining process between public sector employees and the Commonwealth. Further, they distract from the real issues facing our state—adequately funding education, creating jobs, and passing a state budget that works for all Pennsylvanians.

The collective bargaining process is a sound system by which employees negotiate with the Commonwealth to come an agreement for fair pay and fair benefits in exchange for their service to the public. Senate Bills 643, 644 and 645 would disrupt that process, making it nearly impossible to settle contracts in a timely manner. These bills would rob the Commonwealth of its ability to serve the people of Pennsylvania.

Were these bills truly concerned with transparency, they would make public any budget negotiations, caucus meetings, and other behind-closed-door meetings—which they do not. At the very least, these bills about transparency would be given a public hearing first.

It is for these reasons that we **strongly urge you to oppose SB 643, SB 644 and SB 645**.

Sincerely,

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

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