

Special Resolution
Opposition to Senate Bill 47

Whereas, SB 47 in the 135th General Assembly proposes to ban public employers from negotiating leave time for political activities and lobbying activities in a collective bargaining agreement;

Whereas, SB 47 is the by-product of the right-wing Goldwater Institute. The Goldwater Institute wants to silence union money, organization, and endorsements especially in local races such as city council and school board elections;

Whereas, SB 47 specifically targets banning leave time for union members for political activities and for lobbying activities, but does not restrict administrators from the same activities, thereby abridging certain public employees' first amendment rights;

Whereas, a collective bargaining agreement should be between the employer and the employees without interference from the legislature;

Whereas, public employees are directly impacted by policy made by elected officials;

Whereas, the way to strengthen and protect the rights of public employees is by electing politicians who represent their values and by advocating through the legislative process for good policy;

Whereas, SB 47 is intended to weaken public employees' ability to use their collective voices and actions to elect the people who represent their values and to advocate for the policies that impact their lives;

Whereas, SB 47 is a direct attack on unions;

Whereas, along with partisan gerrymandering and a newly enacted law that contains one of the strictest voter identification laws in the country, SB 47 is part of campaign to reduce the political voice of working people;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Ohio Federation of Teachers moves to oppose SB 47, which would restrict our members' right to negotiate release time, and

Be it further resolved, the Ohio Federation of Teachers will mobilize its members to push back against SB 47 and any further attempts to restrict the collective bargaining rights of workers.