

106 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

(609) 989-8730
FAX (609) 989-8734
www.njafclcio.org

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

CHARLES H. MARCIANTE
PRESIDENT EMERITUS



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January 30, 2006

Dear Members of the Senate State Government Committee:

**RE: Support S-319 (Madden / Sweeney)
Concerns the "Non-imposition" of Public Employee Contracts**


The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports S-319 and respectfully asks for your support of this legislation. This bill concerns the "non-imposition" of contracts by public employers and is a very small change that "levels the playing field" when employers attempt to unilaterally impose terms of a contract and do not continue to negotiate in "good faith."

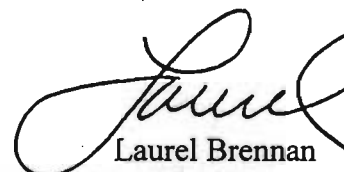
Currently, after the employer and the union go through the bargaining process as well as fact finding, the employer can then simply impose their "last best offer" on employees without continuing to negotiate in "good faith." In these cases, the public employee representative is willing to return to the bargaining table and negotiate in "good faith." However, because public employees cannot strike, the employer has the upper hand when they are determined to "impose" a contract and abandon future collective bargaining sessions. This legislation would compel management to continue to negotiate due to an inability to "imposition" a contract.

Recently, the same bill was signed into law for K-12 employees. With S-319, we are seeking parity with this law for workers represented by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,


Charles Wowkanech
President


Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer

CW:LB:jmn
OPEIU:153