



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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June 17, 2021

Dear New Jersey State Assemblyperson and Senator:

As the elected union leaders of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) in New Jersey and nationally, representing upwards of 15,000 public sector workers in New Jersey, we are writing in support of S3810/A5862, *The Responsible Negotiations Act*. It is our understanding that this legislation is in danger of being tabled as early as Monday. In this regard, we urge you to sign on as a sponsor of this legislation and urge both the Senate and Assembly leadership to swiftly schedule it for consideration.

As it stands now, most public sector workers in New Jersey are not afforded any form of binding arbitration when the employer and the union fail to reach a negotiated agreement during contract negotiations. Furthermore, the “scope of bargaining” for this same group of public sector workers is overly limited and forbids unions from negotiating subjects such as layoffs and subcontracting. However, this is not the case for police, firefighter, and teacher unions, who enjoy compulsory interest arbitration and a non-binding super conciliation process that prevent employers from unilaterally imposing contracts, as well as an expanded scope of bargaining granted by State law. IFPTE believes that it is long overdue for these very same union processes to apply to ALL public sector unions at the State and Local levels in New Jersey.

Fortunately, *The Responsible Negotiations Act* seeks to remedy these disparities by providing for (1) parity with the firefighters, police, and teacher unions with respect to negotiable subjects, and (2) an independent third-party process when it comes to the imposition of contracts.

Finally, the bill retains the right of unions and employers to agree to a July 1 effective date for the withdrawal of dues authorization, while also clarifying the State’s laws in relation to the “Janus v. AFSCME” U.S. Supreme Court decision that recklessly overturned 41 years of judicial precedent by making “free riders” the law of the land in the United States when it comes to public sector collective bargaining.

IFPTE asks that you cosponsor this legislation and urge for its quick consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,  
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Matthew Biggs,  
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