







# the.News


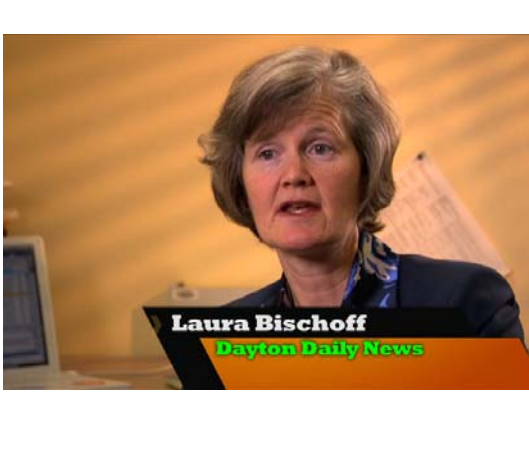
State Budget Crisis' Impact on Unions


3/17/2011



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| 1. |  | Animated Open   |       |
| 2. |   | <p><b>On Camera Open:</b><br/>Hi, I'm Antonio Neves for the Dot News. I'm in Columbus Ohio where behind me these police officers, firefighters, and teachers have gathered to fight legislation they claim will restrict their right to collective bargaining. It's a scene that's playing out in state capitols across the country.</p>  | 00:05 |
| 3. |  | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Tennessee, and Oklahoma are all working on legislation to curb the power of government employee unions.</p>  | 00:23 |
| 4. |  | <b>People in the Crowd</b>  | 00:33 |
| 5. |  | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>The issue is money and collective bargaining rights - that's the legal authority employees have to negotiate contracts as a group...or union. Since 1983 State, County and Municipal employees in Ohio have had the right to form unions and collectively bargain for wages, working conditions, and benefits such as health care and retirement. Now, with the state facing an eight billion dollar deficit, the legislature is working to restrict some of those rights and reduce benefits.</p> | 00:37 |

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| 6. |  <p>Rep. Kevin Bacon (R)<br/>Ohio State Senate, District 3</p> | <p><b>Kevin Bacon:</b><br/>We're experiencing a situation like many communities and states across the nation and that is cost control. We have a down economy, tax receipts are low. At the same time our employee costs are blossoming, so we have a situation, it's the perfect storm. //we have communities that are on the verge of fiscal crisis so we need to take action to help curtail some of those costs.</p>  | 01:10 |
| 7. |   | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>State Senator Kevin Bacon supports the legislation. He says it's not an attack on Unions, but rather <b>describes</b> it as an attempt to bring public employee salaries and benefits in line with private workers.</p>  | 01:33 |
| 8. |   | <p><b>Kevin Bacon:</b><br/>What we're doing with our state employees, our school boards, our police and fire is we're making some changes. First of all, healthcare, they're going to have pay at least 15%. Private sector it's about 23%, so that's one adjustment. Second employees will not be able to strike and that's important. We feel that there is adequate protection in state government and that it's not needed and the taxpayer shouldn't have to suffer.</p> | 01:46 |
| 9. |  <p>Sue Hurbanek<br/>Librarian</p>                           | <p><b>Sue Hurbanek</b><br/>Well it's gonna take away our collective bargaining rights. It's gonna take away our ability to sit across the table from and be equals with our employer. It's going to affect our benefits, our wages, but more so it's going to take away something we've worked very hard for all these years; respect and dignity</p>   | 02:10 |

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| 10. |   | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>Former teacher Sue Hurbanek now works as a librarian.</p>  | 02:26 |
| 11. |   | <p><b>Hurbanek</b><br/>We've already had a 30% cut. Last year we had 30% cut in our funding from the state of Ohio which meant people were laid off. We had three days without pay and we've also had our wages frozen for the past year. So we've already made concessions. We want it to be shared and we want a voice in the solutions, not just to be told what those solutions are.</p>                                  | 02:30 |
| 12. |   | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>The American Labor movement began after the civil war when workers began joining together to demand better working conditions and wages in the factories in New England and the Midwest and the coal mines of Pennsylvania. Over the next 50 years union membership spread to other industries. Many large companies fought against the growth of unions because they felt they increased costs.</p> | 02:53 |
| 13. |  | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>In the 1930's President Franklin Roosevelt championed legislation to encourage collective bargaining, and set rules for working conditions such as the 40 hour work week. This increased union support for the President and the Democratic Party during elections. It's a pattern that continues today with unions generally supporting democratic candidates for state and national office.</p>    | 03:23 |

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| 14. |   | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>In Ohio Republicans won the Governorship and control of both houses of the legislature in the last election.</p>  | 03:50 |
| 15. |  | <p><b>Laura Bischoff</b><br/>If the question is “is it payback against the Democrats?” it depends on who you’re asking. The Democrats say ‘yes it is’, the Republicans say ‘no no no this is something we have to do for the budget.’ It might be a little of both. //The budget is sort of a hook to do something that the Republicans wanted to do for a long time, which is to get rid of this collective bargaining law.</p> | 03:57 |
| 16. |  | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>Laura Bischoff covers the Ohio legislature for the Dayton Daily News. She says the Republicans have some support among non-union workers who have been struggling during the recession.</p>   | 04:17 |
| 17. |  | <p><b>Bischoff:</b><br/>Some people in the private sector have lost benefits, solid pensions, and the like and I think that makes them think “Well why am I paying taxes to support fringe benefits and perks that I no longer enjoy. Can I really afford that?” And I think that’s really hurt the unions overall.</p>  |       |

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| 18. |  | <p><b>Corey Shaffer</b><br/>I think the opposition it's generated is gonna be very mobilized.</p>  | 04:48 |
| 19. |   | <p><b>Narration:</b><br/>Ohio State Senior Corey Shaffer writes for the Student newspaper the Lantern. He <b>predicts</b> the issue will mobilize voters. Ohio law allows for the measure to put on the ballot if enough people sign a petition.</p>   | 04:53 |
| 20. |   | <p><b>Corey Shaffer:</b><br/>Certainly the people in opposition to the bill feel that this is partisan. I spoke to a student at the rally last week who gave a really impassioned speech, he's studying to become a teacher and the quote he gave me was that he thinks that this is part of a larger agenda by Republicans to defund everything Democrats care about.</p> | 05:08 |
| 21. |   | <p><b>Kevin Bacon:</b><br/>It's an attack on spending. This is our employees do a great job. Should teachers and firefighters and policemen get paid more? I'd love to pay them all more but when you're living within limited means there are no scared cows, everybody has to share and share alike.</p>   | 05:35 |

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| 22. |  <p><b>Shonda Sneed</b><br/>Union Activist<br/>Working America</p> | <p><b>Shonda Sneed</b><br/>It will basically wipe out the middle class. I have so many family members that are union based and are struggling as it is. You're taking away their right to collective bargain, to negotiate their living, their safety. It's not right.</p> | 05:49 |
| 23. |    | <p>I'm Antonio Neves for the Dot news.</p>   | 06:05 |
| 24. |   |  |       |