



## The Need for Paycheck Protection in Nebraska

*“To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.” ~ Thomas Jefferson*

‘Paycheck Protection’ is legislation that institutes a firewall between union membership dues, originally intended to fund the administration of local union operations, and political activities within labor organizations. Paycheck Protection simply gives union members a choice, a choice to fund or not fund, the non-administration aspects of their union while still retaining their membership.

### Political Partisanship

According to the James Madison Institute, labor reform experts believe as much as 80 percent of union dues are spent on non-administrative related activity. And according to analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics, Big Labor gives more than 90% of its political support to only one political party.

Over 90% of union members are not Democrats, and certainly over 90% of union members will not vote for a purely Democrat ticket at local, state and federal elections. The basic premise of Paycheck Protection is to protect union members from funding political activities that they do not support.

### Freedom and Fairness

No one should be forced into contributing to political causes. Yet, union members are directly contributing to candidates not of their choosing, but the choosing of Union leadership. Paycheck Protection is about putting all organizations on equal footing. Unions, just like every other organization that seeks to promote a political agenda, ought to solicit voluntary support from their members through a registered PAC instead of benefiting from the ease of funding via automatic deductions from members’ paychecks.

### Paycheck Protection is Not ‘anti-union’

This is not an effort designed to eliminate unions. Rather it’s about providing workers the ability to protect themselves from financially supporting political candidates that they otherwise wouldn’t support. The unions that effectively present their case as to why political activity should occur will more than likely earn the financial support of a number of its members.

### Nebraska’s Opt-Out

Nebraska union leaders will say Paycheck Protection is unnecessary because members can opt-out of supporting political causes via membership dues. Requiring members to take the extra step of ‘opting out’ is irresponsible; individuals have the right to opt-in to supporting political activity with their hard-earned money, not a responsibility to opt-out.

### Activity in Other States

Washington was the first state to enact paycheck protection laws. Once the law was implemented the number of teachers that contributed to the Washington Education Association’s Political Action Committee dropped to 6.1 percent in 2004, compared to 81.7 percent a decade earlier. This data shows the average union membership, by an overwhelming majority, disapproved of the political choices being made by their leadership.

Other states to enact Paycheck Protection include: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Ohio and Michigan. Kansas has legislation currently working through the legislative process.