



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**

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*The Illinois Senate is scheduled to return on Wednesday, September 9th. The Illinois House adjourned this week, and will not return again until September 24.*

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **Veto Override on Interest Arbitration Bill Fails**

*Governor Rauner waged a campaign of deception and intimidation*

The Illinois House failed to override Governor Rauner's veto to SB 1229 (Smiddy/Harmon) this week. Both chambers passed SB 1229 in May to ensure state services continue to operate in Illinois. The legislation amended the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (IPLRA) with respect to state agencies under the governor for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019. It provided for an alternative to strikes or lock outs as a means of resolving an impasse during the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements. In the current unprecedented situation, providing for interest arbitration can ensure that public services are not disrupted. Governor Rauner vetoed SB 1229 in July, the Senate voted to override his veto in August, and the House tried to override the veto on Wednesday, but received only 68 yes votes, needing 71 votes.

Democrat Ken Dunkin turned his back on working families by not showing up to do his job in the House chamber. If he had been in the chamber, he could have been the 71st vote. Instead, it was reported that he was in New York City. No House Republicans voted for the override. Even those members with large numbers of state employees – they chose party over people. Two democrats (Jack Franks and Scott Drury) had committed to vote for the measure, but when Ken Dunkin chose to help Rauner by not showing up, it was apparent the votes weren't there to override.

Thousands of state employees—as well as friends, families and neighbors—rang legislators' phones off the hook to express support for this common sense legislation that would have provided for binding arbitration as an alternative to a lockout or strike if state contract negotiations break down. House Republican leadership publicly threatened rank-

and-file lawmakers with political retaliation if they voted to enact the bill—a threat that longtime statehouse watchers called unprecedented in its brazenness.

“The governor's ferocious and false attacks on this moderate and responsible bill clearly show he wants conflict, not compromise,” Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan said. “The governor's assault on this bill may have won the day but poisoned the well for legislators of both parties who want to work together responsibly to solve problems and serve the people of Illinois. It is clear that Governor Rauner will stop at nothing to carry out his scorched-earth agenda against working people, their rights and well-being.”

“Day in and day out, public service workers in state government keep us safe, care for veterans, protect kids and much more,” said Roberta Lynch, executive director of the largest union of state employees, AFSCME Council 31. “State employees don't want to be forced out on strike, but we're determined not to let Governor Rauner undercut workers' rights, jeopardize workplace safety or threaten the economic security of working families.”

As a candidate, Governor Rauner repeatedly vowed to “take a strike and shut down state government for a few weeks” in order to force workers to accept his extreme demands. More recently, the governor has made stripping the rights of workers to bargain collectively a precondition of enacting a state budget. And in a possible signal that he is preparing to provoke a work stoppage, the Rauner Administration has solicited retirees to serve as strike breakers and reportedly considered mobilizing the National Guard.

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## Veto Override Fails

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The governor's assault on the arbitration provisions of SB 1229 has now derailed the best hope of amicably settling union contracts that are fair to all.

A special thank you should be given to all democrats who supported working families, but especially State Representative Esther Golar who checked herself out of the hospital to support working families in the House. State Representative Monique Davis made great sacrifices to be there for the vote as well.



State Senator Linda Holmes and State Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia joined labor and community leaders this week to denounce Governor Rauner's anti-middle class agenda. The event was held at Painters District Council 30 hall in Aurora.  
Photo credit: Mark Guethle, Painters DC 30

## House Passes Legislation to Ensure Home Care for Low-Income Seniors and People with Disabilities

The House completed passage of HB 2482 by a vote of 74-13-12, and the bill will now be sent to the Governor. The legislation will protect the 29 minimum Determination of Need (DON) score until the State receives federal approval and implements an updated assessment tool.

SEIU Healthcare Illinois President Keith Kelleher issued the following statement: "This vote provides necessary protections to seniors and people with disabilities who were being forced by the Rauner administration into long-term care or nursing homes and placed in positions that threatened their health and welfare. Kicking 34,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities to the curb was downright cruel. And it was shameless for the Rauner administration to do so administratively when they knew they could not possibly achieve this end through proper legislative channels.

"It's a shame that this vote was needed in the first place and hopefully serves as a lesson that, in bipartisan fashion, the people of Illinois are not prepared to sacrifice the welfare of our most vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities to a cheap and unprincipled political agenda."

All Democrats voted for it (except Ken Dunkin who turned his back on the disabled by not showing up),. Four House Republicans: Mark Batinick, Sheri Jesiel, Michael McAuliffe, and Terri Bryant voted for the measure.



## Ken Dunkin and Republicans Throw Kids to the Curb

*SB 570 receives 70 votes, needed 71 to pass*

Governor Rauner issued emergency rules to raise eligibility standards for programs that help provide support for working parents. The Illinois Department of Human Services Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is a critical work support program for parents and early learning opportunity for Illinois' children. It serves over 160,000 children in community and home based child care programs that allow 100,00 families to work.

SB 570 requires the state to serve all children who fall within the eligibility criteria established by the Department regarding income eligibility and meet the required work or school activity. This bill would have deleted a provision that authorized IDHS to lower income eligibility ceilings, raise parent co-payments, create waiting lists, or take such other actions during a fiscal year.

Again, no Republicans voted to pass it, all democrats in the chamber voted for the bill. The bill was put on postponed consideration, recalled to second reading, amendment #3 adopted, and the bill will be called again.

**SB 317 (Manar/McAsey)** –Requires the State to operate the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and at branch sites at Dickson Mounds, Lockport, Rend Lake, and the James R. Thompson Center. Effective immediately. *Passed House Museums, Arts, & Cultural Enhancement Committee 6-2. Labor supports.*

**HB 4104 (Smiddy)** - Provides that the Department of Natural Resources shall maintain a sworn police force (conservation officers) of at least 175 personnel by July 1, 2020 to patrol State parks and waterways. *Passed House Agriculture & Conservation Committee 10-4-1. Third Reading.*



## Labor Day Message from Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan

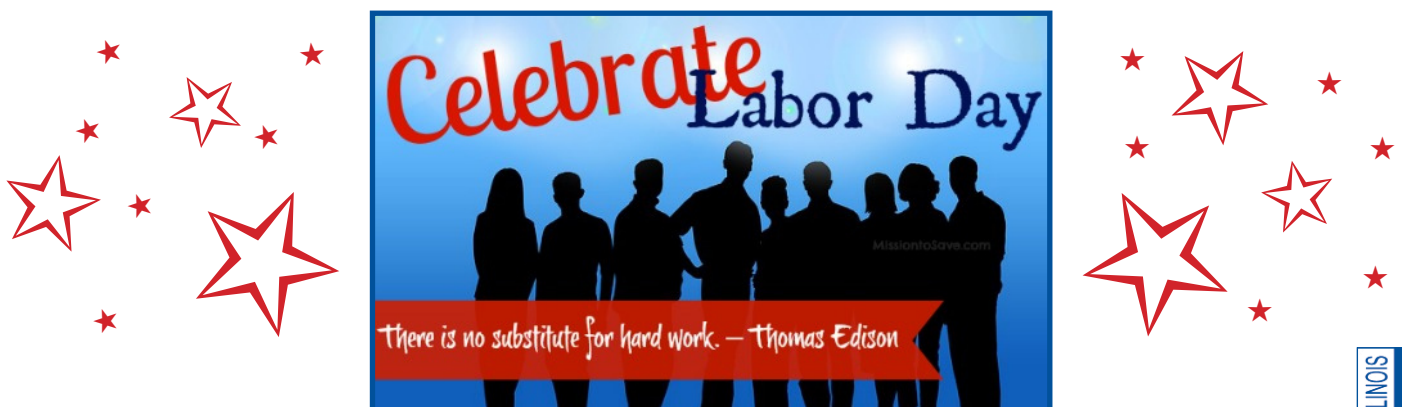
This year's Labor Day brings a new set of challenges and new opportunities for the Labor movement in Illinois. We have never before seen a Governor who has such a disdain for working people that Governor Rauner has shown in his first almost eight months in office. However, his attacks have backfired and the Illinois labor movement is strong as ever.

Labor Day has been a national holiday since 1894. At that time, organized labor worked hard for worker's rights and in the process, raised the standard of living for all workers. Things that have become common place like child labor laws and even the concept of a weekend were completely foreign at the turn of the 20th Century. Organized labor worked to achieve those important standards that we all enjoy today. Now, we are facing yet another challenge.

Organized labor union members are your neighbors, your friends, your son's teacher or your daughter's t-ball coach. They are people that you see every day. The fact that they belong to a labor union does not make them unreasonable. In fact, their work helps to elevate all workers, union or not. Things like collective bargaining agreements, prevailing wage and improving workplace conditions all work to expand the rights of all employees, not just those represented by a labor union. Unfortunately, Governor Rauner does not see it as his job to protect the working families of this state.

During his short tenure in office, Governor Rauner has shown that his priority is not to protect the middle class of Illinois, but to instead protect his friends and the state's right wing corporate elite. They are not the same priorities that we have. Instead of helping the helpless in Illinois, he prefers to cut funding for home health care services for families. He also has chosen to cut childcare services that help working families to afford to keep their jobs and to contribute to our economy. These are not the priorities that we share. These are not the priorities that the majority of Illinoisans share. These are the priorities of his millionaire donors and they are wrong.

We have the best workforce in the country here in Illinois. Our workers have built amazing buildings and bridges. Our members go into the classroom and teach over a million students each day. Our members are on call 24-7 to help at a moments notice in fire departments throughout the state. Union members are not a faceless crowd. We are your neighbor, your friend and your family member. Union members work every day to make life better. We deserve better from this Governor. I am a proud union member and I am always proud to stand with the working families of Illinois, but especially on this Labor Day.



# HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY

# LABOR DAY WEEKEND

*Celebrate Working families this weekend by attending one of the following union-sponsored events:*

## **BELLEVILLE**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Parade is in downtown Belleville, lineup starts in 4th block of South 1st St., and will end at Hough Park with the annual Picnic. Parade & Picnic open to union members and their families ONLY and includes food, beverage and rides and games for kids. Parade - 8:00 a.m. lineup, 10:00 a.m. start / Picnic – 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Contact: Bill Thurston, 618-973-3226

## **BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Labor Day Parade followed by a dinner in Miller Park for union members and their families. Theme is “For More than Ourselves” Parade lineup is 9 am in downtown Bloomington, starting at Front and Madison Streets with 10 a.m. start. Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## **CHAMPAIGN - URBANA**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & softball tournament***

Parade at 10 am in downtown Urbana, starting at Lincoln Square Mall. Parade begins at 10 a.m., picnic and tournament immediately following at Prairie Park in Urbana. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Entertainment provided by a live band. The annual softball tournament will begin after lunch.

## **CHICAGO**

### ***Sept. 5-6 – Labor in the Pulpit/on the Bimah/in the Minbar.***

Launched over 15 years ago, Labor in the Pulpit/on the Bimah/in the Minbar is organized by the Chicago Federation of Labor and features union members, shop stewards and elected labor leaders speaking at over 100 religions services across the Chicagoland area. Presenters discuss how labor and faith communities work to achieve social and economic justice.

## **GALESBURG**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade***

Parade goes down Main Street with lineup at 8 a.m. and starting at 10 a.m.. Picnic at Lake Storey Park immediately following parade.

## **DECATUR**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Parade in downtown Decatur, line up on South Franklin Street at Wood Street with 8 a.m. lineup, 10 a.m. start. Picnic immediately following parade until - 3 p.m. at Fairview Park in Decatur. Open to all union members.

## **GRANITE CITY**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Parade lineup begins at 9:00 a.m. in downtown Granite City on State Street between Niedringhaus & 18th Streets and will go to Wilson Park for picnic. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m.

## **PEORIA**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Party on the Riverfront***

Parade starts at 10 a.m. in downtown Peoria – Free Bus Rides Provided by ATU Local #416 and Citylink from the Riverfront to downtown Peoria for the parade. Labor Day Party – on the Riverfront at parade’s end. There will be food music and fun for all!

## **QUAD CITIES**

### ***Sept. 7 - Labor Day Parade***

Labor Day Parade Quad Cities Celebration in East Moline with lineup at 9 a.m. at John Deere Harvester Works parking lot at 1100 13th Avenue in East Moline. Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. and proceeds along 15th Avenue.

## **QUINCY**

### ***Sept. 7 - Labor Day Picnic***

Picnic includes food, games, music, door prizes and is free to all union members and their families. The event will be held at the Machinists Lodge 822, 2929 North 5th Street, Quincy from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., dinner from 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

## **ROCKFORD**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Labor Day Parade with the theme of “We Are Unions Marching Strong” will begin at 10:00 a.m., lineup at 8:30 a.m. in downtown Rockford. We Are One Picnic is an all-union picnic immediately following the parade at Davis Park in downtown Rockford. The picnic will go until 3:00 p.m.

## **SPRINGFIELD**

### ***Sept. 7 – Labor Day Parade & Picnic***

Parade in downtown Springfield with 10 a.m. start and 9 a.m. lineup – Jefferson Street to 5th, 5th to Capitol, Capitol to 6th, 6th to Washington. Picnic will immediately follow.

## **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

### ***Sept. 7 – DuQuoin Illinois State Fair***

Labor Pavilion will be open each day DuQuoin State Fair, just off Route 51 in DuQuoin, IL