



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**PUBLISHED FOR LABOR ACTIVISTS BY THE ILLINOIS AFL-CIO**  
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*The Illinois General Assembly adjourned late this afternoon. Both chambers will be off next week and will return on Wednesday, October 28th at noon. They are scheduled to be in session from October 28-30 for the final week of the 2009 Veto Session.*

## **HB 1526 – Navistar Edge Tax Credit**

Rep. Lang (D – Skokie)  
 Sen. Viverito (D – Burbank)

### **NEUTRAL**

The Illinois House passed HB 1526 this week to provide a tax credit for Navistar, which manufactures trucks and truck engines. Navistar is attempting to consolidate their research and engineering centers (currently located in Ft. Wayne, IN) in a new facility to be built in Lisle, Illinois. The new facility is expected to generate 800 new jobs, averaging \$80,000 annually.

The Illinois House voted 114-0 in support of Navistar applying for a state business tax credit program that would cost the state \$4 million annually for the next 10 years. Representative Lang (D – Skokie), the chief sponsor in the House, stated on the House floor that the added jobs and investment would create \$115 million in state tax growth over that same period.

The program, called the EDGE Tax Credit is intended to help attract, expand and keep businesses in Illinois.

**10/16/09 – Passed House 114-0-1. Assigned to Senate Revenue Committee**

## **HB 2445 – Omnibus Collective Bargaining Bill**

Rep. Chapa LaVia (D – Aurora)  
 Sen. Sullivan (D – Rushville)

### **SUPPORT**

The Illinois House voted to override the Governor's veto on HB 2445 this week and the veto override will now go to the Senate for their consideration. HB 2445, an initiative of the Illinois AFL-CIO and its public employee affiliates, seeks

to clarify that public employees only have to sign either a majority interest petition or union authorization card, not both. The legislation required the Illinois Labor Relations Board to employ 16 attorneys and 6 investigators, and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board to employ 8 attorneys and 5 investigators. Governor Quinn amendatorily vetoed the legislation seeking to make the minimum staffing levels at those agencies subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

**10-15-09 - House overrode the Governor's AV by a vote of 79-36-0.**

## **HJRCA 37 – TABOR**

Rep. Keith Farnham (D – Elgin)

### **OPPOSE**

This measure is an attempt to put on the 2010 General Election ballot the question of whether state spending should be capped, only to be raised by the rate of inflation. This amendment which has failed in other states would not allow the state to increase spending for essential services for the unemployed during hard economic times.

**10/14/09 – Passed House State Government 11-3-1. Second Reading.**

## **SB 390 – Expansion of Energy Efficiency**

Sen. Koehler (D – Peoria)

### **SUPPORT**

Expands the definition of "energy efficiency project" under the Illinois Finance Authority Act. This will help capture additional state funding for the construction of a new Marriott Hotel in downtown Peoria.

**10-15-09 - Passed the Senate 56-0-1. 1st Reading in House.**

## **SB 1743 – Unemployment Insurance**

Sen. Jones (R – Mt. Vernon)

Rep. Reis (R – Olney)

### **OPPOSE**

Amends the Unemployment Insurance Act. Denies unemployment benefits to those individuals who perform work in agricultural labor, who have been granted a visa admitted to the United States to perform such work.

**10/15/09 – Governor Total Veto overridden by the Senate 55-0-0. Sent to Senate.**

## **SB 2109 – Lobbyist Registration Trailer Bill**

Sen. Clayborn (D – East St. Louis)

Rep. Currie (D – Chicago)

### **Monitor**

An amendment to SB 2109 passed the House Executive Committee this week that makes changes that will affect lobbyist registration. It requires lobbyists to file semi-monthly reports on any expenditure made for state officials. It went on to expand the definition of a state official, (currently the law defines "state officials" as constitutional officials, Chiefs of Staff constitutional officials, cabinet members, and General Assembly members) and will now include members of any board, commission or authority created by executive order or law.

**10/16/09 – Passed House Executive Committee 11-0-0. Second Reading.**

## New Campaign Finance Bill Passes House Committee

A new campaign finance bill that affects how Labor funds its Political Action Committees passed the House Executive Committee Wednesday. The bill, SB 1466 (amendment 2), was opposed by the Illinois AFL-CIO and several affiliates because of several areas of concern.

The top concerns centered around funding of PACs and keeping the ability for locals to continue controlling their political action committees.

The House staff has kept a dialogue with Labor. Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago), sponsor of the bill, has vowed to follow with a trailer amendment containing fixes.

The Illinois AFL-CIO will continue monitoring the situation as it develops going into the second and final week of veto session.

## SHOWDOWN IN CHICAGO For FINANCIAL REFORM RALLY & MARCH

On Tuesday, October 27, affiliated unions of the Illinois AFL-CIO will march for financial reform along with thousands of other concerned workers through downtown Chicago to the Sheraton Hotel where the American Bankers' Association will be holding their convention.

Speakers will include Richard Trumka, Anna Burger, Michael Carrigan, Dennis Gannon and many working-class families who have fallen victim to the big banks' failed financial policies.

Join your fellow union brothers and sisters and community members on Oct. 27 and say STOP BANK GREED. See the attached flyer for details.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Senate Finance Committee Bill Unacceptable

On Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee finally voted on a health care reform bill...however, it did not contain a public option plan or a requirement that employers offer coverage to their workers or pay their fair share. The Committee approved the "Baucus bill" 14-9, with one lone Republican, Sen. Snowe (ME), and all Democrats voting yes.

The following day, the AFL-CIO ran the attached ad titled "Our Bottom Line" in The Washington Post and other Capitol papers demanding that the Senate leadership go back to the drawing board to craft a bill that includes both a government-sponsored insurance plan option and a fair share clause and that does not tax existing health care benefits.

The Senate leadership announced that they are working on just such a compromise bill combining elements from the "Baucus bill" and the much more progressive bill previously passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is quoted as saying "his goal is to get health care overhaul legislation onto the floor the week after next."

The AFL-CIO has repeatedly said it would oppose any bill that does not include the reforms outlined in their ad.

# NOTICE REGARDING THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Much of the information contained in the Legislative Update is time sensitive and in the rapidly changing environment of the Illinois General Assembly and United States Congress, the information is often outdated using conventional delivery methods.

To ensure affiliates and labor activists are receiving accurate and late breaking information, effective November 1, 2009, the Legislative Update will only be delivered via email.

To continue to receive the Legislative Update after November 1, 2009, please provide the Illinois AFL-CIO with your email address and contact information. You may list more than one email address if you wish to include additional recipients from your organization. Please complete a contact form for each recipient.

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Return this form to:

[cindyj@ilafl-cio.org](mailto:cindyj@ilafl-cio.org)

Or by mailing to:

Cindy Johnson, Assistant to the President  
Illinois AFL-CIO  
534 South Second Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701

If you have any questions, please contact Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Tim Drea at 217-492-2616.

Join AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka

# SHOWDOWN IN CHICAGO For Financial Reform



**TUESDAY, OCT. 27, 11 A.M.**

**Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers  
301 E. North Water St.**

**Outside the American Bankers Association Convention**

(Gather at 10:30 a.m. at Wacker and Michigan—we'll march to the hotel)

THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS that caused the global economic crisis are back on their feet—because we bailed them out. But millions of us still face home foreclosures and unemployment, state budget cuts, shrinking pensions, predatory lending, outrageous overdraft fees and sky-high credit card interest rates.

**Enough is enough.**

**It's time to put people first.**

Join us outside the American Bankers Association convention to demand common sense financial reform that helps us rebuild our communities, our lives and our economy.





Our Bottom Line for

# Health Care Reform

FOR ALL AMERICANS, it's great news that we are closer than ever to winning comprehensive health reform that brings down costs, improves the quality of care and guarantees coverage for all—something so many have dreamed about and worked for a lifetime to achieve. Good, affordable health care is an economic and moral imperative, and we are working hard to make it a reality.

But we aren't there yet. The Senate Finance Committee bill is deeply flawed.

**A public health insurance plan option is essential to reform.** A quality public option will lower premiums for everybody and reduce the cost of health reform by over \$100 billion, independent studies confirm. That's because nothing less than a public plan option sets up the competition to break the stranglehold of a handful of big insurance companies that have made 96 percent of metropolitan areas uncompetitive. A public health insurance option means coverage will always be there, even as private plans change benefits, contract with different providers and move in and out of markets. And a public plan can introduce quality advancements into the system that private insurers have no incentive to implement. No wonder 73 percent of voters support providing the choice of a public health insurance option.

**Health care reform has to ease the cost burden on individuals and families, not worsen it.** Americans whose health care premium costs have gone up 300 percent—while insurance company *profits* have gone up 1,000 percent—should not be asked to pay money we do not have. Penalties on individuals who cannot obtain coverage should not be more than what employers are required to pay.

**Employers have to pay a fair share of costs.** Over 160 million Americans get health care at work, but more than \$1,000 of each family plan premium paid by employers and employees actually goes to cover the cost of the uninsured—mostly those whose employers do *not* pay. The only fair way to cover the cost of care for all is to include an employer responsibility provision that requires all employers to provide health coverage or contribute a truly meaningful sum to help pay for subsidies.

**Health care can't be paid for by a new tax on middle class benefits.** The Senate Finance Committee health reform bill slaps a 40 percent excise tax in 2013 on plans valued at more than \$8,000 for individual coverage and \$21,000 for family coverage (with some adjustments). The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this enormous tax would soon hit 40 percent of all plans. Most likely to be hit: plans with people who are older or sicker or those who work for small employers. That's not the change America voted for. A new tax on the middle class is unacceptable.

**Real health care reform. Nothing less.** Unless the bill that goes to the floor of the U.S. Senate makes substantial progress to address the concerns of working men and women, we will oppose it.

AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Air Line Pilots Association  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
American Federation of Government Employees  
American Federation of Musicians  
American Federation of School Administrators  
American Federation of Teachers  
Association of Flight Attendants  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen  
Communications Workers of America  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
International Union of Police Associations  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union  
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association  
Professional Employees Department, AFL-CIO  
Sheet Metal Workers International Association  
Transportation Communications International Union/IAM  
UAW  
UNITE/HERE  
United Mine Workers of America  
United Steel Workers  
Utility Workers Union of America

For more information, go to [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org)