

The Truth About Senate Bill 13

Senate Bill 13 unfairly targets Texas public service employees and eliminates their ability to pay professional or union dues through payroll deductions, forcing them to use riskier payment methods. This bill is an unnecessary government regulation that meddles in public workers' paycheck decisions. It's their paycheck, and how they spend their hard-earned money ought to be their choice.

Senate Bill 13 assaults the freedom of our everyday heroes – the teachers who ensure our children have a bright future, the correctional officers who keep our communities safe, and the CPS workers who protect our vulnerable children. The least we can do in return is allow them to use their paychecks as they see fit.

The special interests supporting Senate Bill 13 want to make life harder for public service employees. Teachers, correctional officers, nurses, and other public employees work hard every day to make sure Texas is safe, healthy, and prosperous. This bill would create extra, unnecessary work for these everyday heroes to have a voice on the job.

Here are the Facts on Payroll Dues Deduction:

Entirely Voluntary - No public employee is required to join a labor union and pay union dues through payroll deduction.

Zero Expense to Taxpayers - State law requires the organization receiving dues to pay any administrative costs, if any, incurred in processing deductions. That cost is so minimal that it is rarely even billed.

Not Used for Political Expenditures - State law forbids unions from using dues money to make political contributions. Those completely voluntary contributions must be handled by separate PACs.

This Decision Is Best Left to Local Governments in Their Role as Employers - Local governments have raised no objections to providing payroll deduction options that are commonplace in the private sector.

SB 13 Picks Winners and Losers - The bill does not touch a long list of payroll deductions benefiting other organizations that also take legislative positions and lobby.