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May 20, 2011

TO: All Kansas AFL-CIO Affiliated Organizations

The 2011 Legislative Session has ended and never was a conservative right-wing agenda more evident. Attacks on workers were plentiful, not only in Kansas, but across the nation. In Kansas, public workers will see a 4.5 % decrease in wages, we now have the strictest voting laws in the nation and employers are now encouraged to misclassify workers or hire illegal immigrants. Right- to-Work initiatives sprung up in statehouses across the country. Attacks on unions such as the one in Wisconsin to remove bargaining rights took different forms. In Kansas, unions from across the state banned together to protect our right to utilize PAC's, a constitutional right.

This time we were able to fend off HB 2130 which would make it illegal for employers to withhold political action money from your paychecks. Make no mistake, HB 2130 is not gone and will be back again next year, because they think that working people voluntarily "pooling" their hard earned dollars to combat big business influence on politics was wrong. If this bill were to be passed, it will make it much harder for you to collect money for political action. We have done and will do everything we can do to keep this from happening. Your COPE FUND donations will help us with this fight.

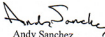
We need to hold these politicians accountable for these attacks on the working middle class while ignoring the plea of the people to create jobs. This is exactly why we must begin early to prepare for 2012 elections. We are asking for donations to our COPE FUND to help us keep the conservatives from furthering their agenda to wipe out your right to free speech and further erode the middle class.

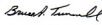
Please be reminded that funds raised for COPE are not used for the general operating fund of the State Federation. Donations to the Kansas AFL-CIO COPE Fund go into a separate account for the explicit purpose of only campaign contributions and political education.

Thanking you in advance, we remain,

Fraternally yours,

  
Steve Rooney  
President

  
Andy Sanchez  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

  
Bruce Tunnell  
Executive Vice President

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