



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-6247

Committees
Health, Chair
Medicaid
Insurance
Education

Stephen Huffman
5th District

To: All Senate Members
From: Senator Stephen A. Huffman
Date: January 24, 2023
Re: Co-Sponsor Request: Prohibiting Public Employee Benefits for Union Activities

I will soon be introducing legislation that will prohibit a public employer from providing paid leave or compensation for a public employee to engage in certain union activities. This legislation will move to prevent the practice of public entities hiring individuals under the practice of "release time."

Release time can be defined as a practice in which public employees are relieved from the job that they were originally employed to perform to work full-time for a union on the dime of the taxpayers.

According to the Goldwater Institute, the City of Columbus paid more than \$1.1 million and 38,469 hours to individuals from June of 2019 to June of 2020 as a result of release time. Additionally during the same period, the Department of Corrections paid roughly \$596,904 and 22,681 hours due to this practice¹². It is of my belief that taxpayers in the state of Ohio should have their tax dollars distributed to public employees in order to benefit the public good and not to benefit a private entity.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions please contact my office at 614-466-6247 or Austin.Lucous@ohiosenate.gov by 4pm on February 1st, 2023. Your time and consideration on the matter is greatly appreciated.

¹ https://www.thecentersquare.com/ohio/report-city-of-columbus-pays-millions-for-non-city-release-time-work/article_a5557a6a-147e-11eb-abd5-27dee3bdc4ad.html

² <https://www.goldwaterinstitute.org/tracking-release-time-2/>