



CWA LOCAL 1032

COMMUNICATIONS
WORKERS OF AMERICA
A.F.L. - C.I.O.

67 SCOTCH ROAD • EWING, NJ 08628
PHONE: (609) 434-1032 • FAX: (609) 883-8184
www.cwalocal1032.org

President
Patrick Kavanagh

Executive
Vice President
Bill Ricci

Secretary
Alan Hardy

Treasurer
Paul A. Pologruto

Sussex County Office
61 Spring Street
Newton, NJ 07860
Ph: (973) 579-7539
Fax: (973) 579-5649

Newark Office
290 Ferry Street, Suite A4
Newark, NJ 07105
Ph: (973) 589-1544
Fax: (973) 589-5304

June 29, 2011

Dear CWA Local 1032 Member,

Last Thursday, the Assembly passed S-2937/A-4133 by a vote of 46-32. 14 Democrats joined all 32 Republicans to support the bill. All 14 Democrats who supported the bill were from South Jersey and Essex County. By the time the Assembly took action, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 24-15, with 8 Democrats joining all 16 Republicans in support. Once again, all 8 Democrats who supported the bill were from either South Jersey or Essex County, with the exception of Senator Brian Stack (D-33, Hudson), whose alliance with Christie is well known. Every Democrat who collaborated with Christie is under the influence of political bosses in Essex County (Joe DiVincenzo) and South Jersey (George Norcross). To see support for this bill so blatantly tied to these bosses is perhaps the clearest indication that this "reform" was never about good health care policy, pension security, or least of all, saving money. It was a back room deal among friends, for the benefit of their own political aspirations and power.

If addressing pension and health care really were about saving money, then the bargaining proposal made by CWA and supported by every other State union would have been the starting point. Our proposal - made at bargaining over 3 months ago - would have saved much more in the first year than the approximately 10 million that the Governor admits his plan will do, and our plan would have saved over \$230 million after 4 years whereas the Treasurer could not produce any evidence that the State's plan would save anywhere close to the figures it claimed. Moreover, our plan addressed issues of cost containment and healthcare delivery that are completely absent in the legislation. So if the legislation was not really about saving money, and it does nothing to address the rising costs of health care, then it can only be about shifting the burden of paying for health care onto workers with no regard for good health care policy as well as destroying our right to collectively bargain over health care. If it serves as a first step towards busting the union and paying back some political favors by giving sweetheart deals to sponsors, then that's a nice bonus.

While passage of this legislation was a painful setback, we must move forward. Enclosed you will find a summary of the legislation and in the coming days you will also be receiving a letter from CWA-NJ Presidents about our plans moving forward. First and foremost, we have to ensure that a Democratic vote in support of this legislation has consequences and our electoral work in November and in the future will be mindful of this. The Executive Board of CWA Local 1032 has long supported working with and developing candidates that are true advocates for working families. To that end, we have supported candidates in local races that have challenged

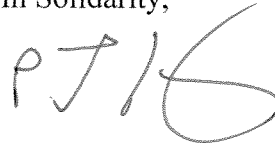
the Democratic Party establishment and we have and will continue to support members of the Legislature that are voices for working people. We know that if we are going to challenge the power of political bosses we must have viable electoral alternatives to the establishment. This will not happen overnight but we must commit to building this capacity.

In addition, and equally important, we have to continue to build unity with other unions and our progressive allies. This fight brought us together and we must remain united as we enter the next phase if we are going to continue to be a strong voice for working families, for social and economic justice, and for a better New Jersey.

We will be scheduling worksite meetings very soon so that we can discuss the details of the legislation and our plans going forward. Our members were instrumental in this fight and we must recognize that our mobilization - on the job, in politics, and in our communities - will continue to be the centerpiece of our work. Every member must play a role.

I want to thank every member that called his or her legislators, came to the state house and walked on a picket line. We will continue to fight together and for our future. We have worked hard to build our union and we will continue to do so together.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJK', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Patrick Kavanagh
President