



International Association of EMTs and Paramedics

A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

February 28, 2025

Ohio Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Ohio Statehouse Room 017
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

Re: Senate Bill 1

Dear members of the committee:

The International Association of EMTs and Paramedics (IAEP), which represents the interests of over 500 EMS professionals in Ohio, writes now to express our strong opposition to Ohio Senate Bill (SB) 1. This bill aims to slash bargaining power and prevent our fellow public servants—teachers—from being able to strike. As men and women who serve this state's residents day in and day out, we are alarmed by this attack on crucial public services and condemn these efforts to prevent us from performing our jobs to the best of our abilities.

The goal of SB 1 is to slowly dismantle public employee working rights until us public servants are rendered powerless—able to have our employment, resources and benefits stripped at a moment's notice. This assault would not only be detrimental to these workers in receiving fair treatment in exchange for the invaluable services that we provide for our communities—moreover, it would be devastating to Ohio residents in their ability to receive adequate fire, police, education and emergency services that they are so dependent on to live in a functioning, safe and healthy state.

While the collective bargaining rights of us first responders have not yet been directly challenged, we find that the mere introduction of SB 1 and its threats against our brothers and sisters in education poses an alarming step in the wrong direction for all workers' rights in this state. We as fellow public employees refuse to stay silent as our abilities to serve our state are gutted agency by agency.

The job of an EMS professional is to provide care for residents in the face of danger, tragedy, adversity, uncertainty, and nearly every other moment of need. The IAEP simply cannot support any bill that aims to prioritize this unjust political power and control over state employees rather than the health and safety of our state residents.

The dilemma here is simple: first responders in Ohio want to continue to provide the emergency response that residents depend on in their communities; SB 1 wants to take real steps to erode our abilities to do so.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 1.

Sincerely,

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IAEP National Director

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