



Senate Oversight and Reform Committee

Chairperson Susan Manchester

March 19, 2025

SB 8 – Prohibit Employment Compensation - Union Activities

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Bryan C. Williams

ABC of Ohio presents this testimony in support of Senate Bill 8, introduced by Senator Steve Huffman. This legislation addresses the misuse of taxpayer money.

Union release time is a practice that allows public employees to conduct union business during their working hours while receiving their regular salary and benefits. Essentially, these employees are granted paid time off from their official duties to engage in activities such as negotiating contracts, attending union meetings, or handling grievances, all of which directly benefit the union rather than the public employer.

Union release time represents a significant and wasteful use of taxpayer money. By subsidizing the operation of a private enterprise, public funds are diverted from their intended purpose of supporting public services and infrastructure. This practice forces taxpayers to finance activities that do not contribute to the public good, undermining the efficient use of public resources.

Moreover, this practice is without equal in the private sector, where businesses are not obligated to pay employees for time spent on union activities. Private companies recognize the inherent inefficiency and potential conflicts of interest in such an arrangement, ensuring that their funds are directed toward productive activities that benefit the business and its stakeholders.

ABC of Ohio commends Senator Steve Huffman for his leadership and foresight in introducing Senate Bill 8. His commitment to elevating the treatment of taxpayer funds demonstrates a profound understanding of fiscal responsibility and public accountability. By championing this legislation, Senator Huffman is advocating for a more transparent and equitable use of public resources, ensuring that taxpayer money is directed toward initiatives that truly benefit the community.

In conclusion, ABC of Ohio fully supports Senate Bill 8 and urges its swift passage. Union release time is an outdated and unjustifiable use of taxpayer money, and its elimination is long overdue. We applaud Senator Steve Huffman for his efforts to safeguard public funds and promote a more efficient and accountable government. This legislation represents a positive step towards ensuring that taxpayer money is used responsibly and effectively for the benefit of all Ohioans.