



SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE – PROPONENT TESTIMONY, S.B. 8 – 3.19.2025

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 8. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio (AFP – OH).

Senate Bill 8 is a commonsense reform which prohibits the practice of “release time.” Release time is a practice that occurs on the local, state, and federal level by which government employees are “released” from the jobs they were hired to do and instead conduct business for their respective organized labor bosses, while still receiving their full salary and benefits paid for by taxpayers.

For example, a public-school teacher could be granted release time to participate in political activities or attend an organized labor conference. This means a teacher, whose salary and benefits are paid for by the public, with the purpose of doing a public service is spending less time in the classroom doing the job they were hired to do – educate students.

Taxpayer should not be obligated to subsidize political and organized labor activities through public sector unions. The business conducted by unions on release time serves no public benefit. Government unions are private entities that negotiate and perform duties for their members, not for taxpayers or their elected government.

SB8 does nothing to change the ability for public employees to join unions and participate in union functions. SB8 merely clarifies that the costs of such membership and representation though should be borne by those who voluntarily give their support to organized labor operations rather than by taxpayers. Unfortunately, government unions have succeeded in getting taxpayers—sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly—to underwrite their operations and advocacy by exercising this practice of release time.

Finally, per the Goldwater Institute, the city of Columbus paid more than \$1.1 million and 38,469 hours to individuals from June 2019 – June 2020 because of release time. During that

same period, the Department of Corrections paid roughly \$597,000 and 22,681 due to this practice.

For the reasons listed above, I respectfully urge you to support this legislation that would protect Ohio taxpayers. Thank you to the committee and to the bill sponsor, Senator Huffman, for considering SB8.