

## OEA Legislative Watch

**February 2, 2011** 

Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

Take action —
Become an OEA
Member Lobbyist

Questions?

Contact your Governmental Services Team

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## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN OHIO SENATE

State Senator Shannon Jones (R-Springboro) has introduced legislation that includes a full repeal of Ohio's law on collective bargaining for some public employees, including higher education staff, and merit pay for all state employees to replace salary schedules.

Please note: This legislation, Senate Bill 5, has no co-sponsors and is only "placeholder" legislation, not a complete bill with detailed provisions. Actual language for the bill is expected next week. Please forward this Legislative Watch to your members, and advise them that we will clarify issues surrounding the bill as soon as we know more.

The preamble to SB 5 states the intentions to change the collective bargaining law as follows:

- That sections of the Revised Code be amended, enacted, or repealed to prohibit the state and state employees and state institutions of higher education and their employees from collectively bargaining,
- To abolish salary schedules for public employees and instead require merit pay, and to make various other changes to the Collective Bargaining Law.

As soon as the full language of the bill is available, the Ohio Education Association (OEA) will provide an analysis of the scope of the proposals. You will continue to be updated as pertinent information becomes available, and we will urgently provide action alerts if and as this proposal moves forward.

All OEA members must provide the strongest advocacy possible to maintain and defend Ohio's longstanding and successful collective bargaining law. OEA members want the highest quality education for Ohio's students, and collective bargaining is critical in helping educators advocate for the tools and support they need to be effective. The collective bargaining process improves labor relations and school operations by giving school employees and their employers an effective means by which to work together, solve problems and seek solutions that promote a productive learning environment for students.

Although the language from Senate Bill 5 is not yet available, OEA members need to prepare for a tough defense of collective bargaining. Please fill out a Commitment Card for Public Education by going to the home page of the OEA website, <a href="www.ohea.org">www.ohea.org</a> or directly to the on-line Commitment Card by clicking here.

Thank you for getting involved in this issue at your earliest opportunity, and for sharing it with your members as an early warning about the attack on collective bargaining.