

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Vincent Prieto
1 Harmon Plaza, Suite 250
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

The Honorable Stephen Sweeney
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400
West Deptford, New Jersey 08086

Dear State Senator Sweeney and Assemblyman Prieto:

We are writing regarding the ongoing effort to craft a solution for the fiscal crisis of Atlantic City. We believe there is an urgent need for such a solution, and that the bill passed recently at the committee level in the New Jersey Assembly represents an appropriate framework.

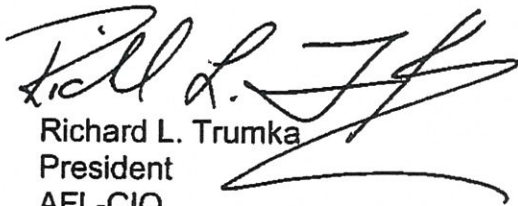
We are gravely concerned about the persistent efforts by Governor Christie to use this crisis to attack fundamental workers' rights and fundamental democratic rights in New Jersey. The Senate bill backed by the governor would deprive Atlantic City's public sector workers of the right to bargain collectively and of the right to organize without fear of retaliation. It would also effectively deprive the citizens of Atlantic City of the right of self-government.


Recently, proponents of this bill have suggested they would amend it by giving Atlantic City 130 days to complete drastic budget cuts or face the loss of these basic human rights. The AFL-CIO does not support this recommendation because the timeframe and fiscal benchmarks are completely unrealistic.

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The Honorable Stephen Sweeney
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Again, we urge you both to move forward on the basis of the Assembly bill to expeditiously craft a solution to the fiscal crisis of Atlantic City.

Sincerely,


Richard L. Trumka
President
AFL-CIO


Charlie Wowkanech
President
New Jersey State AFL-CIO

RLT/DS/bh