



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

May 8, 2008

Dear Republican Senate Co-Sponsor of S. 2131:

On behalf of the Americans for Tax Reform, **I am urging you to rescind your co-sponsorship S. 2123, the so-called “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2007”, as it overturns state worker protection laws and will cripple state budgets.**

This bill, sponsored by Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), and unconscionably passed in the House, will force city governments to engage in collective bargaining with labor unions representing public safety officers and emergency first responders.

Since the establishment of the National Labor Relations Act, Congress has respected our federalist system by leaving collective bargaining up to the states. Even in the union-booming years of the 1930’s, Congress has not had the audacity to trample on this separation of powers until now. Senator, it is imperative that you do not set the dangerous precedent of denying states their federalist powers. Rescind your co-sponsorship and vote “no” on S. 2123.

S. 2123 will allow unions to bargain over employee hours, wages, benefits and condition of employment, ultimately leading to higher costs for goods and services. This bill mandates the creation of emergency first responders unions. Given that union bosses often encourage and push for union members to strike over supercilious circumstances to further their own personal agendas, consider the repercussions of an emergency first responder, police or fire strike in your home state, or perhaps even your neighborhood.

This is evident from the recent bankruptcy filing of Vallejo, California, where the \$16 million deficit stems from unsuccessful negotiations with its public safety workers whose salaries compromise 74 percent of the city’s general fund budget. This is the type of preventable situation that can be avoided if you oppose S. 2123.

Therefore, I am urging you to remove your name from the list of those who, if this passes, will be responsible for forcing thousands of cities nation-wide into a fiscal disaster. I hope you will rescind your co-sponsorship and oppose S. 2123.

Onward,

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