

ILLINOIS LABOR STANDS TOGETHER TO DEFEND WORKING FAMILIES

- We Are One Illinois is focusing on the upcoming legislative veto session, which gets underway on October 25, to demand that Governor Quinn and state legislators support a supplemental appropriation that would provide funding to honor all union contracts.
- Labor will also be prepared to renew our strong opposition to any attempt to push through legislation that, in clear violation of the state constitution, reduces pension benefits for current employees.
- Labor unions will rally in the State Capitol rotunda on Wednesday, October 26 to demonstrate our determination to resist direct assaults on collective bargaining and retirement security.
- Our message: *Organized labor is united in insisting that Illinois cannot become another Wisconsin or Ohio. If public employee unions cannot bargain contracts that are legally enforceable, then collective bargaining will soon cease to be a viable vehicle for workers' aspirations. We call on state legislators to provide adequate funds to fulfill the State's obligations under our collective bargaining laws and to refuse to support SB 512 or any similar measure intended to drastically reduce pension benefits for public employees.*

Collective Bargaining At Risk in Illinois

- The rights of all public employees in Illinois have been put in grave jeopardy by Governor Quinn and leading legislators.
- Gov. Quinn has acted to void key provisions of negotiated union contracts and is aggressively defending his actions in state and federal court, alleging that public employers have no obligation to honor union contracts if they don't have sufficient funds.
- The Governor's position that no contractual requirements exist because the legislature did not appropriate enough money strikes at the heart of public sector collective bargaining in Illinois. If upheld by the courts, it would allow any governor, mayor, school administrator, state university or community college president to unilaterally void union contracts at any time based on the claim of inadequate funding from the relevant legislative body. No union contract would ever truly be binding on any employer if the Governor's position is sustained.

- If he prevails in this fight, Quinn will have accomplished by executive fiat, with the tacit approval of the Democratic legislative leaders, what Governor Walker did by legislation in Wisconsin – the evisceration of long-established bargaining rights for all public employees in the state of Illinois.

PUBLIC PENSIONS AT RISK IN ILLINOIS

- Key legislators, under strong pressure from big business interests, are seeking to drastically reduce the pension benefits of current public employees, effectively eliminating defined benefit pension plans as viable options for most employees. This legislation could be voted on in the Veto Session.