



Freedom Isn't Free

A message from Don Carr, State Director, SEIU Arizona

Every generation of Americans has had to stand up for their freedom. Now it's our turn.

The Arizona legislature recently passed two laws that threaten the free speech rights of all Arizonans, especially those who belong to labor unions.

These laws violate our rights under the United States Constitution, including the rights to free speech under the First and Fourteenth Amendments; the right to equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment; and the right to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment.

On Monday, May 23, SEIU joined UFCW, NEA, AFT, and AFSCME in a lawsuit to challenge Arizona's new SB 1363 and 1365 laws that target our members, other union members, and every citizen ready to jealously protect their individual liberties.

SB 1363- imposes draconian limitations on speech, assembly, and other expressive activity by labor organization members, subjects union members to heightened criminal liability for speech-related activities, and provides Arizona employers with special protections from defamation and trespass that are not available to other Arizonans, while providing those employers with a statutory right to pursue actions for defamation and trespass that extend far beyond what the courts have held permissible in labor speech and the First Amendment contexts.

SB 1365- essentially suppresses political activity by Arizona (non-public safety) union members who pay their union dues via payroll deduction, by imposing vague disclosure and authorization requirements having to do with undefined political activities. The vague wording of this law has a chilling effect on any activity that might be considered "political."

Just as we are fighting for what is just and fair in the workplace, we will fight any and all politicians who attempt to undermine our Bill of Rights freedoms.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

In solidarity,

Don Carr

State Director

SEIU Arizona

don.carr@seiu5az.org