

DATE

The Honorable FIRST LAST NAME
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator LAST NAME:

I am writing on behalf of ORGANIZATION to urge you to oppose passage of the “Public Safety Employer Employee Cooperation Act of 2009,” which may be brought up for a vote soon. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on July 1, 2010 as part of H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009 would severely damage the historic relationships that exist between state and local elected officials, their employees, and the constituents they represent. State, county, and municipal officials provide workers with excellent salaries, benefits and working conditions that are responsive to the fiscal needs and limitations of state, county and city governments, and reflect the priorities of the communities that elected officials represent.

This legislation would force states and localities to adopt federal collective bargaining standards, disregard existing state laws and ordinances that were developed to create an effective and efficient public sector workforce, and place the needs of a select group of workers – public safety officers – in front of the larger needs of the community or other public sector employees. It would, quite simply, undermine state, county and municipal autonomy with respect to making fundamental employment decisions by mandating specific working conditions, including collective bargaining.

This bill would give the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) the authority to determine the scope of collective bargaining, in direct conflict with existing laws and constitutional precedence. Furthermore, the bill does not provide much-needed funding for state and local implementation. It is important that the bill be given the attention it deserves before inflicting an unfunded federal mandate over inherently state and local government functions.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,