



The Honorable Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

July 3, 2019

Dear Governor Baker:

Recently, the House and Senate passed a bill framed as a response to the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* decision. Rather than simply addressing the problem of potential "free riders" that the decision potentially creates, this legislation seeks to significantly expand the power of union bosses at the expense of the privacy rights of state employees. It allows them access to personal information including home addresses, personal phone numbers, and email addresses of all public employees and their family, without consent or security policies in place.

In addition, the bill requires union bosses be given time to meet with new public employees within the first ten days of their hire date. These meetings will occur during business hours and at their place of work. Union bosses will also be given full access to taxpayer funded public agency email systems for union business, including electoral activity. There is no provision in the bill calling on union bosses to reimburse the taxpayers for the time or taxpayer resources used.

Other concerns include a mandated waiting period of up to one year for a union worker who wishes to quit a union and stop paying dues. This opt-out window was ruled unconstitutional under the *Janus* decision and leaves Massachusetts open to a class action lawsuit from workers being denied their constitutional right.

The potential for intimidation is readily apparent, and the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance is particularly troubled by the legislation's infringement upon state employees' right to personal privacy. Over the last several weeks, MassFiscal has witnessed hundreds of emails and phone calls from constituents to their state legislators, urging them to stop turning a blind eye to these very real concerns. During the debate on this bill in the House and Senate, many good amendments were offered that would have gone a long way towards rectifying the most concerning aspects of the legislation. Almost all were dismissed out of hand.

We urge you to give this rash legislation the sober second thought it deserves and stop this infringement of employee's rights from moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Craney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul D. Craney
Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance