

February 16, 2011

Members of the Ohio Senate
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senators:

We are writing to express our objections to Senate Bill 5.

As mayors of our cities, we support collective bargaining. Collective bargaining has improved training and productivity among our cities' employees. In the law's 28-year history, binding arbitration has been extremely rare and almost always results in a fair resolution for both sides. We have been happy with the outcomes that collective bargaining has provided.

Middle class Ohioans who would be hurt by this legislation play a vital role in making our communities thrive. They keep our streets safe, fix our sewers, plow our roads, teach our children and care for our elderly. These Ohioans are good neighbors who care deeply about the people they serve.

Senate Bill 5, if passed, would not only hurt public employees; it would also hurt local businesses and the community at large. Police, firefighters, correctional officers, bus drivers, educators and others are consumers and customers in cities like ours. They spend their money locally on food, gas, cars, appliances and other purchases, keeping local merchants open and supporting local jobs. Dismantling Ohio's collective bargaining law would kill jobs and hurt our communities.

We ask that you oppose Senate Bill 5.

Sincerely,

Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman