

March 6, 2015

I spent a couple of days at the legislative session in Carson City, We heard [AB54](#) Monday. [AB54](#) is slated to determine what a fiscal emergency. The bill allows, in our case, the City of Las Vegas to declare fiscal emergency if they can show a 4% loss in their budgeted end fund balance. Because of the contentious conversation time ran out before our side could express our opposition to this bill. The City is the one who determines the budget and can align it how they see fit. Not saying they would but they could purposely budget it off by 4% or more which would allow them to void our contracts. I was a part of meetings Monday and Tuesday that attempted to put acceptable language that would be beneficial and responsible. [AB54](#) was reheard on 03-04-15 at 0800 in the Governmental Affairs Committee. It was agreed that both sides would meet to agree on appropriate language.

Monday afternoon and evening was spent in our own united committee meeting. We were working a strategy to deal with [AB190](#) which was going to be heard on 03-03-15. The committee consisted of lobbyists from SNCOPS, CLEAN, LVPPA, PORAN, PFFN, Washoe County Sheriffs, several “friendly” Assemblymen and women. The guest of honor was [Teresa Gihlraducci](#), an economist whose resume’ (16 pages) glowed with her outstanding history of pension research. We flew her out from New York City to give testimony on how our pension is the best in the country and why. She was also able to rebut Assemblyman Kirner’s bill proposal to put new employees on a defined contribution while maintaining current employees on the defined benefit.

After a mostly sleepless night we arrived 03-03-15 at the session at 7 am to finish preparing to hear and oppose [AB190](#) at 0800. There were two rooms in Carson City and two rooms in Vegas that were completely full. Assemblyman Kirner gave his proposal and fielded questions. NPRI prepared some numbers in support of [AB190](#). That was followed by some insurance salesman and investors that Mr. Kirner had brought in. Ron Dreher yielded our collective time to Teresa Gihlraducci. In her words “Nevada was best in class”. No one could argue that her testimony was nothing but credible, valid and proven. In other words there was no reason to fix PERS as it is not broken. The fiscal note on [AB190](#) to implement Kirner’s plan is \$800 million dollars. In my opinion it does nothing but gets his friends very wealthy with our money and in the long run destroys our model system. It must be opposed and indefinitely postponed (killed!); again, time was short so the remaining opposition (CCSD Union and others) had a limited amount of time. Because of behind the scene relationships we were able to ensure Teresa had adequate time. We are waiting too here if [AB190](#) will die here or go forward to Ways and Means Committee where Kirner will have more support from legislatures.

The rest of the afternoon was spent meeting with a couple of senators to work on language compromises with various bills.

Following Kirner's destructive bill came [AB182](#) – the attack on collective bargaining. This bill virtually guts our collective bargaining rights and gives management a unilateral right to graciously provide us with equitable compensation and benefits. This bill was originally scheduled to be heard on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Assembly Commerce and Labor. It is sponsored again by Assemblyman Randy Kirner who also just happens to chair the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee. This bill, [AB182](#), was pulled from the Monday hearing and will be rescheduled shortly, most likely sometime next week. We will let you all know when this will occur.

The attack on all of what we have worked for by those in control of both Senate and Assembly is continuing. We have drafted the below listed message for all of us to use as a model to contact our legislators, both Republicans and Democrats, and our constitutional officers, to request their assistance in defeating these needless attacks on our benefits. **PLEASE DO YOUR PART AND START E-MAILING THESE LEGISLATORS IMMEDIATELY. FEEL FREE TO EDIT AND/OR PLAGIARIZE THE BELOW LISTED MESSAGES.**

The Nevada Legislature has already passed a bill assaulting prevailing wage, and there are other attacks on labor issues that are meant to hurt our members. It's time for us to stand up and fight back. Please send a message to Republican legislators urging them to stop attacking worker's rights and send a message to Democratic legislators to stand firm and protect the middle class. It's easy: just copy the full list below and paste in your e-mail address line. Then copy the following or write your own message:

**Sample message for Republican legislators:**

*As a hard working Nevadan and a supporter of organized labor, I urge you to oppose any legislation that would restrict collective bargaining and reduce our wages, our health benefits, and our retirement programs. These initiatives will dramatically impact the quality of life for thousands of working families like mine, and have a devastating impact on our already fragile economy. Thank you.*

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[David.Gardner@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:David.Gardner@asm.state.nv.us); [John.Hambrick@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:John.Hambrick@asm.state.nv.us); [Ira.Hansen@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Ira.Hansen@asm.state.nv.us);  
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[Jim.Wheeler@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Jim.Wheeler@asm.state.nv.us); [Melissa.Woodbury@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Melissa.Woodbury@asm.state.nv.us);  
[Greg.Brower@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:Greg.Brower@sen.state.nv.us); [Patricia.Farley@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:Patricia.Farley@sen.state.nv.us);  
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**Sample message for Democrats, we recommend the following:**

***Thank you for your continued support of labor organizations and working families. There is legislation being proposed that would restrict collective bargaining and reduce our wages, our health benefits, and our retirement programs. We urge you to stand with us in opposing these measures because of the impact on the quality of life for thousands of hard working Nevadans and on our already fragile economy. Thank you.***

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[Marilyn.Kirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Marilyn.Kirkpatrick@asm.state.nv.us); [Harvey.Munford@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Harvey.Munford@asm.state.nv.us);  
[Dina.Neal@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Dina.Neal@asm.state.nv.us); [James.Ohrenschaal@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:James.Ohrenschaal@asm.state.nv.us);  
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You can also call Governor Brian Sandoval and urge him to support workers and their families:  
775-684-5670 and 702-486-2500

Have a great week and please send these e-mails out this weekend.

On behalf of our coalition,

Ron Dreher, Chris Collins, Rusty McAllister, Tim Ross, Ryan Beaman, Marlene Lockard, Marty Bibb, Stephen Augspurger, Lonnie Shields, Stan Olsen, Jason Soto, Pat Sanderson, Priscilla Maloney, Fran Almaraz, Carla Fells and the entire Nevada labor movement

Thank you,  
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