

Statement from the University Presidents, Community College Presidents and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Collective emphasizing the importance of collective negotiations at the local level.

In recent months, legislative bills have been introduced in collaboration with statewide union organizations that seek to regulate wages, benefits, and working conditions.

The Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors Group, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association wish to express collective concern regarding legislation that intends to supersede the good faith collective bargaining that is required to occur at the local level between local bargaining units and their respective employers regarding wages, benefits and working conditions.

Following are some examples of legislation that has been introduced without the input or involvement of higher education representation:

- HB 4361 seeks to establish a minimum faculty salary requirement of \$1,333 per credit hour taught.
- HB 5573 sets a minimum employee annual hourly rate for 2022-23 through 2024-25, in addition to requiring annual compensation increases equal to CPI thereafter.
- HB 5315 would require each public university or a community college to notify a part-time or non-tenure track faculty member about the status of enrollment of the class the faculty member was hired to teach at least 30 days before the beginning of a term and again at 14 days before the beginning of the term. The bill also would require each public university and community college to offer free parking to all adjunct faculty.

Our organizations fully support the collective bargaining process when handled in a fair and equitable manner to support good faith labor relations. This process ensures informed decisions on wages, benefits and working conditions are jointly determined by employers and local bargaining units, and that these decisions are aligned with institutional needs and regional characteristics. Collective input and discussions are germane to the success of the process.

We believe that statewide union organizations working directly with legislative leaders to essentially negotiate wages, benefits and working conditions at the legislative level versus local level could be perceived as an unfair labor practice. Thus, we urge our legislative leaders and statewide union organizations to consider the importance of collective negotiations at the local level and honor the spirit of fair labor practices when addressing legislation which may impact wages, benefits or working conditions for the totality of membership across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of our collective statement.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa C. Freeman
President, Northern Illinois University
Convener, Illinois Public University Presidents and
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Mr. Jim Reed,
Executive Director, Illinois Community College
Trustees Association



Dr. Jonathan "Josh" Bullock
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