The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers is watching a number of troubling bills being pushed by GOP leaders in Harrisburg. Under the guise of “education reform,” these bills are designed to weaken workers’ ability to organize and eliminate the voice of educators from the critical conversations that impact our public schools.

**PAYCHECK DECEPTION BILLS: SB 166 & 167**

The goal of these bills is to prohibit public employers from deducting union dues from employee paychecks and prevent unions from engaging in political activities.

*Here’s why the PFT opposes these bills:*

- These are anti-union bills, designed to financially cripple unions and make it harder for workers to organize around the issues that matter to them.
- Union membership is voluntary in Pennsylvania, and the collection of dues is negotiated in collective bargaining. Political contributions are another voluntary, and separate, contribution.
- There is no cost for the employer or tax payer associated with the deduction.

**ELIMINATION OF PROPERTY TAXES: SB 76**

*Here’s why the PFT opposes this bill:*

- Eliminating property taxes puts school funding across the state in immediate danger.
- We encourage legislators to utilize alternative, less fiscally careless, methods of property tax relief.

**INCREASING EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FUNDING: SB 250**

*Here’s why the PFT opposes this bill:*

- Increasing EITC funds will increase the inequity in our schools by utilizing lucrative tax breaks as a way to funnel money into private and religious schools.
- Increased government funding of private schools is simply a way to skirt our collective responsibility to provide fair and adequate funding to traditional public schools that educate a majority of our children.

**The PFT Supports:**

- Governor Wolf’s proposed $100M increase in basic education funding and $25M increase in special education funding; and
- Implementing a shale tax and other corporate taxes that will begin to alleviate the tremendous burden borne by Pennsylvania’s children.

For more information, visit the PFT Legislative Action Center at [www.PFT.org](http://www.PFT.org)