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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ILLINOIS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, STATE LODGE SHOWS  
SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORING STATES BEING AFFECTED BY COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING LEGISLATION**

The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police, State Lodge stands in support of our neighboring states and states nationwide that are being affected by legislation restricting or attempting to eliminate collective bargaining.

In Illinois, House Speaker Michael Madigan has declared that “it will be up to the Illinois Supreme Court to decide whether changes to pension benefits for current state employees are constitutional.” However, Senate President John Cullerton and Gov. Pat Quinn both have previously said such a plan is unconstitutional. Even so, Cullerton has left the door open for a vote in his chamber if such a measure passes the House first, and Quinn’s chief of staff, Jack Lavin, told reporters Tuesday night that the governor is open to changes in the benefit system if they are accomplished through the collective bargaining process.

ILFOP Director of Governmental Affairs, Dan Nelson, spoke with a staffer for Speaker Madigan assigned to pension issues today who stated that the Speaker intends to allow the matter to be fully debated in committee. He has been hearing from both sides on the issue and has been accused by House Republicans of bottling up their bills and not listening to their ideas. House Bill 149 Cross(R) Oswego has been assigned to Pensions Committee but no call date has been determined. In response to the committee assignment, it was suggested that Republicans now wish to have study groups assigned before calling the bill for debate.

The current events in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio show that Illinois is not alone in this situation. “This is pretty significant legislation that would take away decades of collective bargaining rights...We have been having discussions with the media, with our constituents and with other groups who are tremendously affected by what the governor has recommended...we need more than three days to discuss the bill and consider the ramifications...” Wisconsin Senator Jim Hoperin has said.

On the national front, Senator Dick Durbin weighed in by saying, “Workers across the country should have the right to stand together for fair compensation and a safe workplace. Wisconsin’s teachers and state workers should not be badgered by a governor who refuses to sit down and work out a fair compromise...”

Illinois State Lodge President Ted Street assures all ILFOP members that we are closely monitoring the IL General Assembly for measures that could threaten member rights. The Illinois FOP is ready to stand with all Illinois labor organizations in support of those states that are being unfairly attacked through this sort of legislation and hopes that we can all unite to ensure this situation does not continue to spread.

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