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MAP SUPPORTS OUR UNION BRETHERN FIGHTING LEGISLATIVE ATTEMPTS TO ERODE THEIR RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

We are all acutely aware of the events unfolding to the North in Wisconsin and several other states that are poised to legislate away collective bargaining and pension rights that have taken decades to secure. We will do everything in our power to assist in any way. This type of legislative activity is somewhat expected because of the political makeup of these states. Each of these states has either recently elected a Republican Governor or seen a shift in power from Democratic to Republican in their senate and house.

The story, which you may not be aware of, is what is going on right here in Illinois. Historically a pro-labor state currently is controlled by a Democratic Governor and Democratic Senate and House. There have been three (3) bills introduced: House Bill 146, House Bill 140, and Senate Bill 1679. Each of these bills is designed to have a profound effect on **CURRENT** police officers pensions. No sooner has the ink dried on the changes they made to new officers pensions that they are right back in session attempting to legislate away or alter current police officers pensions.

Speaker of the House Michael Madigan (D) is on record as saying that it will be up to the Illinois Supreme Court to decide whether changes to the pension benefits for current employees are constitutional. Although other legislators and several constitutional attorneys have said they believe the changing of current benefits is unconstitutional, it appears it will be heading to the courts to decide. The Governor and others have indicated that they are open to changes to current benefits only if the changes are achieved through fair and open bargaining.

We at MAP are committed to protecting the rights of our membership and will explore every avenue available and take every measure necessary to us to maintain those benefits. We will continue to monitor what is going on in surrounding states with special attention to what is going on right here in Illinois.