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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 134 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, CONKLIN, BRIGGS, W. KELLER, SABATINA,  
BISHOP, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA,  
DeLUCA, JOSEPHS, HORNAMAN, GOODMAN, FABRIZIO, KOTIK, MAHONEY,  
MANN, MUNDY, MURPHY, M. O'BRIEN, WAGNER, STABACK, ROEBUCK,  
READSHAW, DeWEESE AND GIBBONS, MARCH 17, 2011

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 17, 2011

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the right of workers to form a union and  
2 collectively bargain with employers; and calling for an end  
3 to the war on workers.

4 WHEREAS, Public-sector and private-sector union workers are  
5 our friends and neighbors, and through their efforts they enable  
6 us to meet our commitments to all citizens of this Commonwealth;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The right of our citizens to unionize positively  
9 affects working conditions, wages, benefits and our communities  
10 as a whole; and

11 WHEREAS, Historically, labor unions are responsible for the  
12 civilized working conditions we take for granted, including 40-  
13 hour work weeks, laws pertaining to child labor, health and  
14 safety standards, overtime pay and health insurance and pension  
15 coverage; and

16 WHEREAS, The right of workers to organize and form unions has  
17 directly led to the growth and success of the middle class in

1 the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, A coordinated attack on workers' rights and middle-  
3 class protections has commenced in state capitals across the  
4 country at a time when elected officials should be working to  
5 create jobs and strengthen their state economies rather than  
6 paying back corporate sponsors and attacking political enemies;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, As a central part of our democracy, labor unions are  
9 the bulwark of a strong middle-class society, and no democracy  
10 denies public-sector or private-sector employees the right to  
11 organize and participate in a union and to negotiate at arm's  
12 length and in good faith with their employer; and

13 WHEREAS, Collective bargaining is not a weapon but rather a  
14 reasonable method for workers and employers to resolve  
15 disagreements in good faith; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and  
17 express its strong support for the rights of workers, including  
18 the right to form a union and to collectively bargain in good  
19 faith with an employer; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call for an end  
21 to the war on workers and recognize that a strong middle class  
22 is the only way to ensure the United States economy remains  
23 sound.