



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

195 Russell Street, Suite B-13, 2nd Flr, Hadley, MA 01035



House Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee
New Hampshire State House
107 N Main St, Concord, Rm. 159
NH 03301

RE: HB1704-An ACT permitting public employees to bargain individually with public employers without any intervention.

Chairman Creighton, Vice Chair Avellani, Clerk Labrie, and Distinguished Members of the House Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee;

My name is William Doyle. Currently I serve in the role of Executive Director for the National Correctional Employees Unions (NCEU). The National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU) represents five (5) County Correctional Units in the State of New Hampshire comprising of approx. one hundred and fifty (150) members. We have been advocating for correctional, communication, and law enforcement officer salaries and benefits since 2012 in the State of New Hampshire.

The NCEU rises in opposition to HB1704 for many reasons, but first and foremost it dilutes the current Collective Bargaining Laws designed to provide a level playing field for all employees. The proposed legislation, even though public safety employees are exempted, would lead to further complaints, grievances, and inharmonious working environments amongst employees in similar classifications. In many public safety contracts throughout the state, annual salary increases are tied to merit based initiatives. Imagine the challenge for the Municipal Entity if individual collective bargaining agreements were to take place between one hundred (100) employees and management. This legislation would be a nightmare for public employers, not to mention breed animosity and exacerbate staffing shortages across all job classifications.

Even the New Hampshire Labor Relations Board (NHPELRB) prohibits the fracturing of larger or established collective bargaining units into smaller units in order to limit the amount of unions that a municipal entity has to negotiate with for wages, hours, and working conditions. Union members have the right to get on negotiation teams and participate in collective bargaining under the current law. Please VOTE NO on this proposed legislation.

In Solidarity,

William Doyle
Executive Director

Office: 413-788-6238 Fax: 413-273-1023

www.nceu.org