



*Nevada State Legislature, 82nd Session:
Testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 224*

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

To the Chair and Members of the Government Affairs Committee,

We at the Libertarian Party of Nevada write to you in opposition to AB224. By expanding collective bargaining for public sector employees to include professionals in a range of industries, you open the door to potentially dramatic cost increases for taxpayers and consumers over time. This bill will lead to higher government spending, and create new political power centers that benefit the union members and politicians who align with them at the expense of all Nevadans.

Unions in the private sector are a matter of free association and have every right to exist. Public sector unions are different in kind and should not be permitted at all, much less expanded. They have a history of protecting bad actors, blocking needed reforms, and entrenching new layers of bureaucracy in the systems they inhabit. In the private sector, the bottom line of the business acts as a backstop to unreasonable union demands. If the numbers don't add up, the business will eventually go under. In the public sector, no such reality check exists. Everyone involved is bargaining with someone else's money. Future taxpayers will bear the burden of mounting debts due to public sector pensions and benefits.

Public sector unions also create a concentrated interest group with a direct pipeline to political influence. They lobby, donate to political campaigns, and provide manpower for door-knocking and similar efforts - largely aimed at expanding their own benefits. All union dues in a public sector union are ultimately paid by the taxpayer. Why should taxpayers financially support an entity that exists solely to extract more from them?

We urge you to reject the expansion of public sector union influence in Nevada, and vote NO on AB224.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by Katie Banuelos, Secretary, The Libertarian Party of Nevada