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May 2, 2011

City Council Members  
City of Ann Arbor  
Suite 485  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear City Council Members:

The State Legislature is considering legislation that could make the resolution of simple workplace issues very difficult. HB 4059 would prohibit the City from "entering into or renewing a bargaining agreement that requires or allows paid time for union officials, members, or bargaining representatives to conduct union business or otherwise carry out the duties of the union if the time is paid by the public."

Michigan **AFSCME** Council 25 has worked closely with your City to resolve problems on behalf of its members and to reach fair and equitable contracts that meet the needs of both the City and our members – and most importantly meet the needs of the community. We have mutually agreed to those situations where it is in the best interests of all concerned to conduct that business "on the clock." Eliminating that ability could make grievance resolution more difficult at the first step and cause further problems by failing to resolve minor disagreements early.

HB 4059 could result in contract negotiations and other Labor Management meetings being held at strange hours to avoid unnecessary time off. Decisions as to when such meetings take place should be left to the local elected officials and/or appointed representatives and not mandated by State Law that allows for no local discretion.

We know you share these concerns because we have reached agreement on contract provisions of this nature in the past.

Michigan **AFSCME** Council 25 asks you to send a letter opposing House Bill 4059 to the State Senator(s) within your community's jurisdiction. We would appreciate a copy of your letter as we continue to oppose this legislation in the Senate. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Michigan Council 25 AFSCME



Albert Garrett  
President



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