

UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA

2023 Legislative Session - Week 3



Pictured: Senator Jason Pizzo (D) speaking on the Senate Floor against SB 256, this year's anti-union bill.

Bills We're Watching

[HB 999 / SB 266 "Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions"](#)

[SB 256 / HB 1445 - "Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees"](#)

TAKE ACTION!

[Click here](#) to oppose HB 999, which would eliminate academic programs and tenure. Take action on the Senate companion bill, SB 266, [here](#).

[Click here](#) to email the members of the House State Affairs Committee and ask them to oppose anti-union HB 1445.

This Week in Tallahassee

With the legislative session moving rapidly, and bills attacking workers and higher education advancing daily, UFF continues to join our union sisters, brothers, and kin across the state to participate in FEA's Zoom "Power Hours" on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, 3/21, 15 UFF members from across the state made over 100 contacts with legislators in 30 minutes. Join us on 3/28 and let's double that number!

The Power Hours are great opportunities to catch up on what's happening and take collective action. This is where you want to come if you have questions about the legislative session. To register for all upcoming sessions, go to feaweb.org/powerhour.

If you aren't able to attend the Power Hour, you can take quick actions on your own. To review the entire upcoming week, check out [FEA's guide online](#). This includes information on all the key bills we're watching for K-20 educators. You can also call **(844) 937-2517** to participate in the AFL-CIO's campaign to reach all of our legislators and let them know that workers are paying attention to how they vote on union busting bills.

Although we have to energetically resist the bad bills that will severely damage Florida's higher education system, we also are advocating for bills we DO support. **Mark your calendars for April 3rd**, when we'll be holding a press conference in Tallahassee with Rep. Hinson to draw attention to these bills. We'll be looking for union members wearing union shirts to be present in a show of strength to demonstrate that we're fighting back!

You can also reach out today to let your senators and representatives know that there are some excellent higher education bills waiting to be heard. Talking points for these bills are available here:

Academic Freedom
Grad Fee Waivers



Pictured: Members of the AFL-CIO Working Family Lobby Corps showing up strong in Tallahassee!



Pictured: United Faculty of Florida leaders celebrating UFF-FSU crossing the 900 member threshold! From left to right, Anne Barrett (UFF-FSU), David Butcher (UFF-FSU) and Samique March-Dallas (UFF-FAMU)

This week, **SB 256 / HB 1445 - "Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees"** was heard for second reading in the Senate, which is the last opportunity for amendments (barring votes to waive rules at a later time). There was significant debate on the floor. The bill was approved and will go up for final vote, or third reading, next week. The House bill will have one more committee stop before heading to the floor. Refer to the "Take Action" box on page 1 to find opportunities to take action and oppose this bill.

The current expectation is that both versions will pass, and the Gov. will sign the final version into law by mid-April. **This is why our membership drive is vital right now.** Check out <https://myuff.org/join-uff/> to learn more about new promotions that can help all of our chapters reach 60% density. We will emerge from this trial stronger than ever.

We also continue to support the AFL-CIO Working Families Lobby Corp. If you are interested in taking action in Tallahassee, you can sign up today! If you sign up, make sure to contact nikkimorse@gmail.com so we can coordinate with you.

Never forget: strong unions beat fascism before, and we can do so again!