



## Police and Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining Bill

([H.R. 413](#)/[S. 1611](#)/[S. 3194](#)/ S. Amdt. 4174)

The so-called “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009” (H.R. 413/ S. 1611/ S. 3194/ S. Amdt. 4174) would impose monopoly bargaining on every firefighter, police officer, and EMT in the country.

There are many reasons to oppose this bill:

- 1) **Monopoly bargaining is wrong.** Even a convicted criminal still has the right to choose his own representation, but if the **Police and Firefighter Monopoly Bargaining Bill** becomes law, the Police and Firefighter union bosses will have the power to force their so-called “representation” on public safety workers who do not want it.
- 2) **Public Safety Monopoly Bargaining is a gross violation of states' rights.** Public Sector labor relations have always been a state and local issue. H.R. 413/ S. 1611/ S. 3194/ S. Amdt. 4174 would actually overturn the existing laws of 26 states.
- 3) **Public Safety Monopoly Bargaining would impose massive new costs on state and local government.** Public sector monopoly bargaining has driven cities across the country, and the entire state of California, to the brink of bankruptcy. In addition to simply the cost of hiring and training staff to negotiate with union bosses and administer union contracts, history has proven that whenever you unionize a public sector workforce, costs go up and quality of service goes down.
- 4) **Public Safety Monopoly Bargaining would shackle homeland security to a union contract.** Our first-responder systems need flexibility. You cannot have that if every schedule change has to be approved by a union official.

**This legislation will also lead to strikes against public safety, because its so-called “antistrike” clause is toothless.** The only way to make an anti-strike clause effective is to require severe financial penalties on unions and union officials that call for strikes, and expressly forbid the granting of amnesty when the illegal strike is ended.

- 5) **This Legislation will decimate volunteer fire departments.** Many volunteer fire departments are anchored by one or two professional firefighters, working with, and helping train, the rest of the volunteers. The International Association of Firefighters’ (IAFF) constitution forbids its members from working as or with volunteer firefighters.

The bill's drafters cleverly deceived virtually everyone on this point. The various versions of this legislation over the years have falsely purported to solve this problem, but in every case, the language has been completely meaningless.

No version even attempts to prevent the IAFF from punishing and discriminating against its members who work with volunteers, even in their off-duty hours.

The only way to protect volunteer firefighters would be to add a requirement that states protect the right of individual firefighters to engage in part-time employment or volunteer activities during off-duty hours, without fear of reprisal from any employer or labor organization, and refuse to certify as an exclusive bargaining agent any labor organization that retaliates or discriminates against, or disciplines its members for engaging in part-time employment or volunteer activities during off-duty hours.

###