

Legislative Update

Ohio House Education Committee:

- **HB 428:** “Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018.”
 - Authorizes students enrolled in public schools to engage in religious expression before, during, and after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent that a student may engage in secular activities.
 - Prohibits public schools from restricting a student from engaging in religious expression in the completion of homework, artwork, or other assignments.
 - Prohibits public schools from rewarding or penalizing a student based on the religious content of the student's homework, artwork, or other assignments.



The Ohio Senate Education Committee met twice this month.

- **HB 98:** Addressing Career Information Presentations to Students; having passed the house unanimously in November, this bill received its first hearing.
- **SB 216:** The committee accepted several amendments that address some of the concerns proponents have expressed thus far. There is already talk of another substitute bill in the works.
- **SB 82:** The committee accepted an amendment that changes its requirement that schools to notify parents within two hours from the school day start if a student is absent without an excuse.
- **Presentation and Testimony on Cradle-to-Career Educational Attainment**

United States Congressional Legislation Introduced in January:

The following bills have been introduced as either Senate Bills or House Resolutions. Information about these is available at GovTrack.

S. 2306: Enhancing Educational Opportunities for all Students Act A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the use of 529 plans and Coverdell education savings accounts
[Further Information](#)

H.R. 4811: Securing Our Schools Act of 2018

To provide for grants from the Attorney General to local education agencies to purchase and install devices that would allow for the immediate notification of appropriate officials in case of emergency, and for other purposes.

[Further Information](#)

H.R. 4838: Reaching English Learners Act

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.

[Further Information](#)

H.R. 4859: Public Service Loan Forgiveness Inclusion Act of 2018

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain payments made by public service employees to qualify for public service repayment, and for other purposes.

[Further Information](#)

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S. 2342: Innovation Zone Act

A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create an innovation zone initiative, and for other purposes.

[Further Information](#)

S. 2351: Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act of 2018

A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that an individual may remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of such Act if the individual's period of consecutive years of employment as a full-time teacher is interrupted because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year pursuant to military orders for a permanent change of duty station, and for other purposes.

[Further Information](#)

Join us at the Statehouse for the Working People’s Day of Action!

Join OEA at the

WORKING PEOPLE'S

DAY OF ACTION

February 24
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus

Gather at 10:30 am
Program at noon



WORKING PEOPLE'S

DAY OF ACTION

02.24.18

On February 24, join us for a national **Day of Action** in Columbus and cities across the country to show support for strong unions. We will join thousands of working people and our allies to stand up for our right to organize and to show how strong unions benefit all of us.

Strong unions play a vital role in the fight for equitable pay, affordable health care, quality public schools, and making sure the future is secure for everyone.

It's time to end a system that's rigged against working people.

Now wealthy special interests and ideological extremists want to rig the system further through a Supreme Court case called *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*. This case is another attempt to limit the power of working people by weakening unions that give workers a powerful voice in advocating for themselves, and in OEA's case, the students that we serve, their families and their communities.

Just as we proved in overturning Senate Bill 5, when we join forces and stick together, WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE!

To RSVP go to www.ohea.org/actions/day-of-action/

Visit www.ItsAboutFreedom.org to learn more.



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