An Act uplifting families and securing the right to strike for certain public employees

MTA Legislative Agenda, 2023-2024

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham)

Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge) | Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven (D-Somerville)

Ending the statutory prohibition on striking for educators and certain other public employees

Massachusetts public employees, including educators, are currently prohibited by state law from engaging in a strike, regardless of their working conditions, their students' learning conditions, or whether their employer may have committed unfair labor practices.

This outright ban on public employees striking is deeply unjust, prevents educators from bargaining on a level playing field with their employers, and unfairly restricts the ability of educators to take collective action in support of themselves and their families, their students and the communities they serve.

An Act uplifting families and securing the right to strike for certain public employees **would address this injustice by:**

- Allowing educators and other public employees, except for public safety personnel, to legally strike after six months of failed negotiations with their employer.
- Ensuring that the right to free speech is no longer restricted for public employees and their unions as it relates to discussing or supporting a strike.

Passing *An Act uplifting and securing the right to strike for certain public employees* means:

- Providing educators and certain other public employees with a fundamental right that is available to workers in the private sector.
- Leveling the playing field at the bargaining table by allowing educators and certain other public employees to withhold their labor after six months of failed negotiations, likely leading to a quicker and more just collective bargaining process.
- The Commonwealth will join 12 other states, including California and Vermont, that provide public school educators with the right to strike.