

OHIO UPDATE

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

WORDS:

Friday, May 5, 1995 – OEA Spring RA
Discussion of Constitution & Bylaws Proposal 3

DELEGATE: "...Am I correct that the Ohio Education Association does not spend any money in lobbying this particular issue [abortion] or has not in the memory of those of us who are around?"

PRESIDENT BILLIRAKIS: "We have not spent any money in lobbying this position for, against, or anything to that sort."

Saturday, December 2, 1995 – OEA Fall RA
Discussion of Constitution & Bylaws Proposal 2

DELEGATE: "...My question to Mr. Dorsey is how much money have we spent historically on this issue [abortion]."

SECRETARY-TREASURER DORSEY: "OEA currently spends zero dollars to lobby for or against abortion."

ACTION:

Although OEA Delegates have attempted through different proposals to assure that no OEA dues monies are spent in lobbying the abortion issue – for, against, or otherwise, individuals can decide for themselves whether or not OEA lobbies the abortion issue by reading the letter on the next page.

Although the letter focuses on OEA's concern over collective bargaining rights, it strongly alludes to their pro-abortion position since they would want abortion coverage included in health insurance benefits for state employees. HB395 will prohibit the use of state funds – our tax money – from being used for abortions. State employees would still have the option of purchasing with their own money additional insurance coverage that would cover abortions. The Ohio House of Representatives did pass HB395 on September 9, 1997 by a vote of 60-34. HB395 is currently being considered in the Ohio Senate for committee assignment. For updates contact Ohio Right to Life (614-241-5200)

LIFE ISSUES CAUCUS UPDATE

Gary Winney, Chairperson

Although the Ohio Education Association's Fall Representative Assembly is brief, affording us fewer opportunities for input than one would wish for, it does provide Life Issues Caucus with time to plan strategies for the Spring assembly. LIC has tried many approaches to OEA's problematic involvement in the abortion issue, but by no means has the list of possibilities been exhausted. Lately, in fact, there appears to be a move, nationally, to bring the United Teaching Profession into financial accountability to its membership, and LIC is presently exploring the possibility of pursuing this approach. Where, for example, in the OEA's official documents is this accountability guaranteed? If, in fact, the financial records *are* open, then it would be important that they be carefully scrutinized by those concerned with OEA's political involvement, to ensure that dues monies are not being spent inappropriately; if the books are *not* open, then legal proceedings need to be considered.

Life Issues Caucus will continue its effort to restore a sense of professional responsibility within OEA; as individuals who have been given the privilege of serving you in this capacity, we covet your prayers, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

TSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 15, 1997: The TSC Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees held a special called board meeting in Columbus, Ohio, to accept the resignations of two TSC Board members, Carolyn Croll who has served for four years and Sheila Harper who has served for three years. The Board members and the Executive Director thank both of these women for their time of service on the TSC Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees approved the names of Roy Heusel and Lisa Rudloff to fill the open seats on the Board of Trustees.

September 6, 1997: The TSC Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees met in Columbus, Ohio, for their regularly scheduled Fall meeting. The Board made several decisions to transfer some areas of office administration and public relations to the National TSC Board. The Board also discussed various strategies that would fulfill the purpose of TSC. The Board approved the 1996-97 fiscal report and the following 1997-98 Ohio Chapter budget.

Miscellaneous Fees	250.00
Office Administration	500.00
Postage	1400.00
Public Relations	
Promotion	250.00
Printing	1200.00
Telephone	<u>400.00</u>
Total	\$4000.00

1996-97 TSC of OHIO FISCAL REPORT

Balance - September 1, 1996 \$1213.95

Receipts:

Contributions:	502.00	
T-shirts (loss)	(-165.12)	
Memberships:		
'96-'97	1275.00	
'97-'98	2065.00	
Interest	29.37	\$3706.25

Disbursements:

Miscellaneous		
Audit Fees	50.00	
National Dues		
'96-'97	255.00	
'97-'98	413.00	
Office Administration	390.77	
Postage	1254.58	
Public Relations		
Promotion	108.50	
Printing	914.54	
Telephone	569.98	\$3956.37

Balance - August 31, 1997 \$963.83

Please note: There were a large number of membership renewals paid prior to September 1, 1997. Thank you for helping the Board to have a better picture of what our finances would be like for the 1997-98 fiscal year. TSC does not solicit additional contributions beyond memberships, but does appreciate any additional contributions received throughout the year.



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Michael Billirakis, President
Gary Allen, Vice President
William Dosey, Secretary-Treasurer
Bill Sundermeyer, Executive Director

September 5, 1997

The Honorable Jay Hottinger
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Hottinger:

I am writing to you to express some concerns that the Ohio Education Association has with HB 395 that is sponsored by you. It is my understanding that this bill is scheduled for a floor vote on September 9, 1997.

HB 395 would prohibit the use of state funds to provide health insurance benefits that include coverage of nontherapeutic abortions for state employees. The OEA represents a number of state employees who work in state institutions and it is our contention that this bill proposes to restrict the rights of a bargaining unit to determine the content of its own health insurance policies, the premiums for which are paid by both the employer and the employee. The OEA respectfully requests that this bill be re-referred to the House Commerce and Labor Committee, primarily to evaluate the exception to Chapter 4117 of the Revised Code contained in this bill.

This issue of intrusion into the collective bargaining process needs additional attention by the members of the Ohio House of Representatives in the standing committee which has prior experience in this body of law.

Again, on behalf of the OEA, I request that HB 395 be re-referred to the House Commerce and Labor Committee for additional deliberation. If the House determines not to re-refer HB 395 to committee, the OEA requests you vote **NO** on this bill which will diminish collective bargaining rights for employees! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Billirakis
President