



Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

9:00 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room, Rm. 569
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Schneider, Sims and Steele (12)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

Also Present: Michael Jasso,

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Suffredin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

1. George Blakemore, concerned citizens
2. Bridget Early, Director of Political Affairs for Chicago Federation of Labor
3. Lorie Cohen, Director for Reproductive Rights Project

15-2956

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 4/1/2015

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Committee Minutes be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Schneider, Sims and Steele (12)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

15-1516

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, LUIS ARROYO JR, JOHN A. FRITCHEY, BRIDGET GAINER, JESÚS G. GARCÍA, STANLEY MOORE, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, DEBORAH SIMS, ROBERT STEELE, LARRY SUFFREDIN and JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**PROTECTING ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND
SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING LEVELS**

WHEREAS, women need access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care throughout their lives, including screening for cancer and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services, abortion care, prenatal care, and labor and delivery services; and

WHEREAS, reproductive health is a vital component of a woman's overall health, and reproductive freedom is vital to a woman's safety, well-being, and ability to participate equally in society; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a historic and landmark decision, ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the U.S. Constitution safeguards a woman's ability to make her own personal medical decisions about when or whether to have children; and

WHEREAS, that decision has allowed women to participate more fully in society, saved lives, and strengthened families and we must always guard against efforts to deliberately erode the availability and affordability of abortion and undermine the protections provided by *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans continue to support safe, legal abortion; and

WHEREAS, federal and state laws that place obstacles in the paths of women seeking abortion care take away the ability of those women to make decisions and threaten the health of families; and

WHEREAS, one such restriction is the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress on September 30, 1976, which for nearly 39 years has impeded access to abortion care for low-income women enrolled in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid coverage for abortion care has a significant effect on low-income women's ability to decide to end an unwanted pregnancy, and in the absence of such coverage many women are unable to obtain an abortion; and

WHEREAS, many women in Cook County, including state and federal employees, obtain insurance coverage through other public insurance programs that also restrict coverage for abortion; and

WHEREAS, all women should have insurance coverage for comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion care, to ensure that their economic status or the source of their insurance coverage does not affect important health care decisions or access; and

WHEREAS, millions of women nationally, and hundreds of thousands in Illinois and Cook County, are subject to these inequitable policies; and

WHEREAS, public health insurance should cover all of a woman's options when she is facing an unintended pregnancy, so that she is able to make a real decision about what is best for her and her family; and

WHEREAS, Cook County provides important support for many women to ensure that they have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, but regardless of the resources dedicated by Cook County, bans on coverage for abortion continue to harm many women; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding of comprehensive reproductive health care be increased and that abortion be covered as part of comprehensive reproductive health care in all public insurance programs to ensure that services are accessible for women who are enrolled in such programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County call upon federal and state elected officials to maintain the protections established by *Roe v. Wade* for access to comprehensive reproductive health care and undo restrictions that have been placed on those protections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and members of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County call for increased federal and state funding for comprehensive reproductive health care and to reinstate coverage for abortion services for women enrolled in public insurance programs.

Legislative History: 3/11/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Arroyo, that this Resolution be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Sims and Steele (11)

Present: Schneider 1)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

15-2495

Presented by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Michael Jasso

Position: Director

Department/Board/Commission: Cook County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: 4/29/2018, or until a successor is appointed

Summary: Appointment pursuant to the requirement that the Land Bank Authority Board contain one representative from the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

Legislative History: 4/1/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Appointment be recommended for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Schneider, Sims and Steele (12)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

Sponsored by: JOHN A. FRITCHEY, and LUIS ARROYO JR., RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JOHN P. DALEY, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, DEBORAH SIMS, and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CREATION OF LOCAL RIGHT TO WORK ZONES IN ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner has repeatedly called for the creation of local right to work zones, in which voters could decide if workers in their communities employed in unionized industries can opt out of paying dues to labor organizations; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rauner has asked for city councils across Illinois to consider a resolution asking for voter referendums to allow local right to work zones, as well as changes to prevailing wage laws and worker compensation laws; and

WHEREAS, such action has the potential to further dismantle unionized labor organizations, which have historically protected the rights of working and middle-class Illinoisans and could lead to lower wages, reduced benefits, and poor working conditions for employees whether they are union or non-union; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan released an opinion last week unequivocally declaring that the concept of local right to work zones presented by Governor Rauner would violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA); and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General opinion additionally states that “counties and municipalities, whether home rule or non-home-rule, as well as all other political subdivisions, units of local government, and school districts of this State, are precluded by federal law from enacting ordinances and resolutions that limit or restrict the use of union security agreements. Further, current law does not authorize the creation, through the passage of a referendum, of “right to work” zones or local areas wherein union security agreements will not be recognized.”; and

WHEREAS, although Illinois courts have not had to address this matter previously, courts of other jurisdictions and other state Attorneys General that have opined on the matter have uniformly concluded that the NLRA preempts the prohibition of union security agreements by units of local government in all instances relating to interstate commerce and that the lone exception to federal preemption authorizes only states and territories, and not their political subdivisions, to prohibit union security agreements; and

WHEREAS, this latest attack on collective bargaining is an attempt to weaken organized labor and will not make Illinois a more competitive business environment, evidenced by the fact that similar laws in other states have had no significant impact on attracting employers to a particular state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the proposal to create local right to work zones in Illinois as such action would violate current federal and state laws and would negatively impact collective bargaining and hurt hard-working middle-class employees and their families in Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in light of the current federal and Illinois laws, the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges local government subdivisions within Cook County to refrain from considering and adopting resolutions asking the Illinois Legislature to allow local right to work zones.

Legislative History: 4/1/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Fritchey, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Resolution be accepted as substituted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Schneider, Sims and Steele (12)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION TO 15-2543

Sponsored by: JOHN A. FRITCHEY, and LUIS ARROYO JR., RICHARD R. BOYKIN, JOHN P. DALEY, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, DEBORAH SIMS, and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board Commissioners

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CREATION OF LOCAL RIGHT TO WORK ZONES IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner has repeatedly called for the creation of local right to work zones, in which voters could decide if workers in their communities employed in unionized industries can opt out of paying dues to labor organizations; and

WHEREAS, Governor Rauner has asked for local governments across Illinois to consider a resolution asking for voter referendums to allow local right to work zones; and

WHEREAS, such action has the potential to further dismantle unionized labor organizations, which have historically protected the rights of working and middle-class Illinoisans and could lead to lower wages, reduced benefits, and poor working conditions for employees whether they are union or non-union; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan released an opinion last week unequivocally declaring that the concept of local right to work zones presented by Governor Rauner would violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA); and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General opinion additionally states that “counties and municipalities, whether home rule or non-home-rule, as well as all other political subdivisions, units of local government, and school districts of this State, are precluded by federal law from enacting ordinances and resolutions that limit or restrict the use of union security agreements. Further, current law does not authorize the creation, through the passage of a referendum, of “right to work” zones or local areas wherein union security agreements will not be recognized.”; and

WHEREAS, although Illinois courts have not had to address this matter previously, courts of other jurisdictions and other state Attorneys General that have opined on the matter have uniformly concluded that the NLRA preempts the prohibition of union security agreements by units of local government in all instances relating to interstate commerce and that the lone exception to federal preemption authorizes only states and territories, and not their political subdivisions, to prohibit union security agreements; and

WHEREAS, this latest attack on collective bargaining is an attempt to weaken organized labor and will not make Illinois a more competitive business environment, evidenced by the fact that similar laws in other states have had no significant impact on attracting employers to a particular state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the creation of local right to work zones in Cook County as such action may violate current federal and state laws and would negatively impact collective bargaining and hurt hard-working middle-class employees and their families in Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be tendered to the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the President of the Illinois Senate and to the Governor of Illinois.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Fritchey, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, that this Resolution be approved as substituted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Sims and Steele (11)

Nays: Schneider 1)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

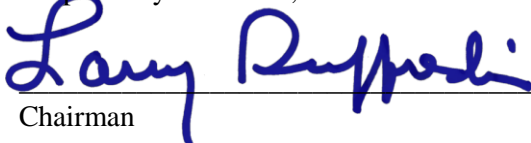
ATTENDANCE

A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Sims, that this committee was to adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Goslin, Murphy, Schneider, Sims and Steele (12)

Absent: Commissioners Gainer, Gorman, Moore, Silvestri and Tobolski (5)

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman


Secretary

*A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>