



State Senator John Keenan and State Representative Patrick Kearney File Bill to Support Legislative Staff's Unionization Effort

The bill clarifies law by including 'legislative employees' among public employees authorized to collectively bargain

BOSTON, MA (1/20/2022) – Today, State Senator John Keenan (D-Quincy) and State Representative Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate) jointly filed legislation, [SD.1208/HD.2435](#), *An Act relative to collective bargaining rights for legislative employees*, that would update state law to ensure legislative employees have a clear path toward collective bargaining. Current state law is ambiguous regarding the inclusion of legislative employees in its definition of public employees with the authorization to unionize. The new bill would clarify existing law to specify the inclusion of legislative employees.

“I strongly believe that all workers should have the opportunity to join or form a union. Unions have always led the fight for good wages and benefits, safe and family friendly workplaces, and so many other worker protections and workplace improvements. For me and my brothers and sisters, my parents’ union jobs kept a roof over our heads and food on our table,” said **Senator Keenan**. “I filed this bill because our valued, dedicated, and talented legislative staff have expressed a desire to form a union - this legislation would give them full opportunity to do so.”

In addition to Sen. Keenan, the legislation was cosponsored by Senators Michael Brady, Anne Gobi, Michael O. Moore, Rebecca Rausch, and Walter Timilty.

"As a card-carrying member of IATSE Local 11, this legislation hits home to me personally," said **Representative Kearney**. "I support workers' rights, anywhere and everywhere, if they desire, to organize for benefits and a safe workplace. This includes but is not limited to, our talented and dedicated legislative staff here at the Massachusetts State House."