

People Power Petition Drive – Update #6
March 10, 2005

Two weeks and counting! Hopefully, each and every one of you have been able to get out and do grassroots democracy directly by collecting signatures. At stake is a law that, unless repealed, will virtually guarantee one party rule in Ohio for years to come. Business corporations will have a DIRECT say in which candidates get promoted by unleashing direct corporate contributions in the political process for the first time in 96 years. The political voices of the super rich will also be heightened by quadrupling (that's 400% folks) legal campaign contribution "limits" from \$2500 to \$10,000.

What political influence will the rest of us have? Working people Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries? The poor? Small businesspersons? Families trying to make ends meet, pay a mortgage, pay down their debt and send a kid to college?

What chance do the issues we care about at the state level -- from health care, to education, to jobs, to environment -- have a real chance of being seriously addressed if business corporations and the super rich have rewritten the rules to benefit themselves.

Not much.

Issues are important. But so are rules. Unless rules are written fairly and democratically, we don't have a chance to influence any issue we care about. That's why this bill MUST go down. With your help, it can and it will. This weekend is a great time to petition. Please dedicate at least one hour to gathering signatures this weekend and one hour next week. Twenty to twenty-five more signatures from everyone would more than double what has already been collectively reported. Any amount, however, is helpful.

Campaign Update

1. More than 2000 signatures were reported collected by last Monday from less than half of the 130 of you on this list. Excellent job. We have to keep collecting. Petitions have gone out to 20 more people this week.

2. It's unclear how many signatures have been collected statewide. More than 7500 petitions are in the field. Effort is underway to collect as many petitions as possible. If you've done collecting, please send them back to us: AFSC, 513 W. Exchange St., Akron, OH 44302. We've agreed to take some of the load off of the Ohio AFL-CIO by tabulating/checking completed petitions.

3. Deadline for completed petitions is Wednesday, March 23 to be in our office. PLEASE PUT ALL PETITIONS IN THE MAIL TO US OR DROP THEM OFF TO US BY MONDAY, MARCH 21.

4. If you're new to this list, please check out our website for background information on the issue and campaign.

<http://www.afsc.net/PeoplePowerPetitionDrive.html>

Petition tips/questions (based on questions/comments from the field)

1. Reminder: You can't sign your own petition.
2. Please, only 1 person carrying a petition. Don't give your petition to someone else to circulate.
3. Check the dates that people sign. The dates need to be sequential, that is from older to newer. If someone put the wrong date when they signed, it's permissible for you to cross it out and print the correct day.
4. You as circulator can also print the address of those who sign. The only item signatories have to fill in is their signature. Please encourage people to sign their name using whatever name and address they are registered as and at with their county Board of Elections.

Thanks for doing what you can and where you can for democracy!

p.s. Please forward this message to anyone you've given petitions to.