



National Troopers Coalition

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National Troopers Coalition

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SUBJECT: *NTC Supports Collective Bargaining Rights for Law Enforcement*

Today, the National Troopers Coalition (NTC), representing 45,000 State Troopers and Highway Patrol Officers throughout the United States, announces its support for Collective Bargaining for all state employees.

“Troopers are on the front-line of defense for our national security at a time of unprecedented threat and Collective Bargaining is vital to maintain a highly qualified and professional law enforcement workforce” said NTC Chairman Mat Hodapp. “We are disappointed that states are taking a short-sighted and ill-informed policy position to attempt to balance their states fiscal difficulties on the back of public safety professionals.” Hodapp continued, “We just placed 316 members of law enforcement on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall during Police Week in Washington, DC. We watch in awe as our public officials, legislators, administrators, concoct ways to “gut” our ability to negotiate.

Wisconsin has proposed abolishing Collective Bargaining Rights for state employees including law enforcement. The Wisconsin State Police has experienced a drop in 20% of man power allocation due to a state hiring freeze. Troopers have been transferred from investigative posts to highway patrols; thus, slowing investigative efforts. In North Carolina, there has been a mandate freezing promotions, training, and transfers due to budget cuts; furthermore, a seventy five person personnel cut is reportedly imminent. California Highway Patrol has implemented a State hiring freeze, and there are no Academy recruit training classes in sight. They have also severely limited promotions and professional transfers.

Hodapp continued, “Something just doesn’t sit right when a public official is laying a wreath on the grave of a police officer killed in the line of duty and the next day signing a bill that decimates the ability of his co-workers to receive a fair wage. We are not any better than any other public worker out there, but we are unique and a little bit different in what our job responsibilities call us to do.” The NTC has been present at rallies across the country and has joined with public safety officers, first responders, and other labor groups, in support of collective bargaining rights.

