

Stop Terry Branstad's Anti-Worker Agenda

Terry Branstad is against public employees and unions, and has been for a long time. When Chapter 20 was passed in 1974, granting Iowa public employees the right to bargain collectively, Branstad was a state legislator and one of the most vociferous opponents of bargaining rights. Over 12 days of legislative debate before the bill passed, Branstad offered dozens of amendments designed to weaken or gut public employee rights.

Branstad's hostility to state workers and unions continued during his previous stint as governor, from 1983 to 1999. Those years are remembered by union veterans as a period of constant attacks from the governor's office. Branstad has repeatedly claimed that public employees in Iowa are overpaid and that our benefits are too good.

Since 2012 Branstad has led an assault on fully-paid health insurance for state workers, and to require employees to pay 20 percent of the premium. Unable to get workers to volunteer to pay 20 percent of the cost of insurance, and failing to impose 20 percent cost-shifting through collective bargaining, Branstad wants to impose his will on state employees through legislation.

Branstad has publicly declared that he is "inspired" by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's success in taking away the collective bargaining rights of public employees. Branstad has supported legislation in the state house of representatives to ban public employee bargaining in Iowa. The only legislative obstacle that is stopping him is the one-seat Democratic majority in the state senate. If Republicans gain control of the state senate, public employees will be in big trouble.

Terry Branstad's administration has been one of the most scandal-ridden in Iowa history. He's been governor for five terms, and has shown that he does not deserve another term. And he surely does not deserve to gain control of the state senate so he can fully implement his anti-worker agenda.



There is a lot at stake for Iowa public employees in this year's election. Make sure you vote on November 4.

