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News Release

Contacts: Rick Levy,
Leonard Aguilar or Ed Sills,
(512) 477-6195;
Sills cell: (512) 695-1148

State Seizing Power, Voice From Local Voters

The Texas AFL-CIO slammed today's Texas Senate vote advancing HB 2127, which would cut off the freedom of cities and counties to govern in broad categories.

Aptly dubbed the "Death Star bill," HB 2127 would destroy ordinances and rules and prevent future ones on worker rights, workplace safety, consumer protection, and much more. It would cut off future local payday lending rules, undermining borrowers who need protections most.

"This brazen power grab tramples on the voices of local voters and harms working families," Texas AFL-CIO President Rick Levy said. "Instead of solving local problems locally, local governments will have to come to Austin to seek permission to act from extreme state officials who have already shown that they have never met a worker protection measure they like."

Levy said elimination of local ordinances like safety training, fair hiring, and rest breaks for construction workers in the Texas heat is not only cruel but dangerous.

"There are so few protections for workers in this state," he said. "We are the deadliest state to work in. The Legislature has no business actively stripping away what protections we have and further threatening our health and safety."

"Texans want to be able to work with their city councils and commissioners courts to craft local solutions to real problems. This bill simply turns those bodies into note-takers for a power-mad state," Levy said.

"With HB 2127 on the brink of becoming law, workers wanting to regain their local freedom to make decisions will be left with two solutions: One, ORGANIZE, and gain the best protection there is - a collective bargaining agreement; and two, VOTE like your life depends on it - because it does."

The Texas AFL-CIO is the state labor federation consisting of 240,000 affiliated union members who advocate for working families in Texas.