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# PUBLIC SECTOR TASK FORCE

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Co-Chair  
President, MA AFL-CIO

**JAY COLBERT**  
Co-Chair  
Vice President, IAFF District 3

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Massachusetts State Legislature  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02123

November 16, 2023

Dear Legislator,

We, the undersigned members of the Public Sector Task Force of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, write to you on the most urgent matter facing our members right now: the authorization of 95 ratified collective bargaining agreements. Yesterday, the legislature failed to act on a supplemental budget that would fund hundreds of millions of dollars in collectively bargained raises for public sector union members.

Tens of thousands of Massachusetts workers woke up this morning in shock and disappointment that the union contracts they negotiated with Governor Healey were not funded. After working hard over weeks and months to come to equitable agreements, our members have rightfully expected raises.

**This disappointment comes at the worst possible time – when working families are gearing up for heating expenses and the winter holidays.**

This inaction comes after years of underpayment, underfunding, and lack of support for public sector employees. It remains our hope that the legislature will authorize these contracts, immediately fund the agreed upon raises, and give the hardworking servants of the Commonwealth what they have earned.

Not only do unauthorized CBAs affect tens of thousands of members and their families, but it also affects the Commonwealth's ability to maintain high-quality public services. The Commonwealth cannot retain a skilled and trained workforce when public employees are not given adequate wages and the state ignores its responsibilities to a collectively bargained contract.

The Public Sector Task Force urges you to give our public employees their duly earned raises today. We implore you to reconvene immediately, forgoing your holiday break, stand with working people, and **fund these contracts**.

Please let us know any way that we can be helpful to accomplish this goal on behalf of the working people and the residents of the Commonwealth.

Signed,

American Federation of Government  
Employees

American Federation of State, County, and  
Municipal Employees Council 93

American Federation of Teachers -  
Massachusetts

American Postal Workers Unions

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 589

Boston Teachers Union – AFT-MA Local  
66

Central Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Greater Boston Building Trades Unions

Greater Boston Labor Council

Greater Southeast Massachusetts Central  
Labor Council

International Association of Machinists  
Lodge # 264

International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local 103

International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Local 122

International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Local 25

International Union of Painters and Allied  
Trades District Council 35

Laborers' International Union of North  
America – Massachusetts

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Massachusetts Building Trades Unions

Massachusetts Coalition of Occupational  
Safety & Health

Massachusetts Coalition of Police

Massachusetts Correction Officers  
Federated Union

Massachusetts Organization of State  
Engineers and Scientists

Massachusetts Nurses Association

Massachusetts Retirees Association

Massachusetts Teachers Association

Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council

National Association of Government  
Employees (NAGE) – Service Employees  
International Union

Norfolk County Central Labor Council

North Shore Labor Council

Office and Professional Employees  
International Union Local 453

Office and Professional Employees  
International Union Local 6

Plymouth-Bristol Central Labor Council

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

Service Employees International Union  
1199

Service Employees International Union 509

Service Employees International Union 888

Service Employees International Union  
Massachusetts State Council

State Police Association of Massachusetts

UMass Boston Labor Resource Center

United Autoworkers Local 1596

United Automotive Workers Region 9A