

Suggested Phone Script for the Bills to Break Up the State-wide Bargaining Unit

NOTE: The bills in question, S-2026 and A-2963 would re-define each State college/ university as the “public employer” and empower each institution to conduct their own labor negotiations with campus unions. This would nullify our collective strength at the bargaining table. That is why it is vital that you participate in this campaign.

What follows is a suggested phone script to use in contacting your legislators. If your legislator is not available, ask to speak to an aide.

Hello. My name is _____.

I work at _____ college/university and I am a member of AFT Local _____, AFL-CIO.

I'm calling to ask Senator/Assemblyperson _____ to oppose the break-up of the state-wide bargaining units for state college/university employees.

S-2026 sponsored by Senator Tom Kean and A-2963 sponsored by Assemblyman Jay Webber would hurt our system of higher education in New Jersey.

- If each state college is allowed to negotiate separately, it will vastly increase administrative costs. Furthermore, institutions will be pitted against each other, which will undermine employee morale and lead to labor unrest.
- In 2007, the State Commission of Investigation found evidence of financial mismanagement. Moody's Investor's Service just concluded that every institution has run up excessive debt. Clearly, the state colleges/universities need more oversight, not less.
- For the past 36 years the State of New Jersey, specifically the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (OER) has negotiated system-wide labor contracts with the three state employee unions. The college presidents have significant input into these negotiations and are represented at the bargaining table. Only OER has the system-wide perspective and knowledge of labor relations to get the job done properly.

The existing system works and should be maintained. If it isn't broken, don't fix it!

Thank you for your time.