

August 2026

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224



RE: Prohibit Use of Fraudulent and Deceitful Messaging to Union Members

Dear Governor Hochul,

As a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), I urge you to approve legislation recently passed by both houses of the State Legislature that will help prevent union members from being misled by groups pretending to be their union (S.9577-A by Sen. Ramos/A.10835-A by Asm. Griffin).

This legislation would amend the Civil Service Law to help prevent non-affiliated persons or organizations from falsely impersonating an employee organization or its representatives. Currently, there is no specific law stopping an individual or organization from using the names, similar logos, photographs or other materials to falsely represent themselves as speaking for an employee organization. This bill would create a financial deterrent for those who would seek to deceive union members with messages that are not actually from the union.

Since the Supreme Court ruled that public employees can opt out of paying union dues, we have seen an influx of messages to our members purportedly from our President encouraging them to take this action. With advancements of artificial intelligence and so-called "deep fakes," we are concerned that these messages will only become more sophisticated and cause more people to believe that the fake messages are real.

Union members receive important communications from their union on a variety of subjects that can unknowingly be lost or interrupted should they fall victim to this type of misrepresentation. Members may also unwittingly lose access to important optional member benefits such as legal and financial services.

If individuals or organizations wish to expend resources to educate union members about their feelings about the union, such communications should clearly and unambiguously detail the individual or organization who is paying for the message and refrain from false representations of the union or its elected officials.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to sign this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____