A bill crafted in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s anti-worker decision in the Janus vs. Quinn case in 2018, passed the House on a bipartisan 93-23 vote Thursday.

The Illinois AFL-CIO and many affiliates were instrumental in putting Senate Bill 1784 (Sen Harmon/Rep. Hoffman) together and, along with the sponsors, shepherding it through the legislature. While the Janus decision reversed decades of settled law concerning public employees, this legislation recovers some protections for workers.

SB 1784 protects the personal information of workers and retirees, affirms core union rights and clarifies dues deduction procedures.

The bill, because it was amended in the House, now moves to the Senate for concurrence. It is expected to have a floor vote during the second week of veto session in November.

Labor lobbyists and advocates for Senate Bill 1407 (Sen Hastings/ Rep. Walsh) continued to make headway as support builds in the House for the crucial legislation providing a trained workforce to deal with hazardous materials at refineries and other plants.

The bill passed the Senate in the spring and labor continues the push for a vote in the House during veto session or early in 2020.

Construction is expected to take six to eight weeks and will feature an 8-foot statue of former IL AFL-CIO President Ruben Soderstrom and two 8’ x 11’ video screens. One video screen will be dedicated to the tenure of President Ruben Soderstrom and the other will display significant Illinois Labor history events. The statue and one video screen are being donated by the Soderstrom Family Foundation. The plaza will be paved with bricks celebrating Illinois labor unions and organizations.

There is still time to order an engraved brick by filling out the form on page 4 and returning to as soon as possible.

To get an idea of what the finished plaza will look like, please follow the attached links:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GssdJ-xYSbY&feature=youtu.be
Senate Confirmations:
The Senate confirmed the following Governor Pritzker appointments this week:

**Illinois State Toll Highway Authority:**
- James Connolly – LIUNA Chicago District Council
- Gary Perinar – Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
- James Sweeney – Operators Engineers Local 150

**Director of Veteran’s Affairs**
- Former State Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia

**Director of State Police**
- Former St. Clair County State’s Attorney Brendan Kelly

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IDOT Releases Multi-Year Highway Plan

Keeping a campaign promise to create jobs and improve infrastructure, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation released the IDOT Multi-Year Plan, which dedicates $23.5 billion to infrastructure projects throughout the state for years 2020 through 2025.

The plan, unveiled on October 21st, is supported through the massive Rebuild Illinois program passed by the Illinois General Assembly on June 1st. Rebuild Illinois is a $45 billion infrastructure improvement initiative to fund investment and improvements in roads, bridges, transit, education, state parks, historic sites and clean water infrastructure.

For a list of the multi-year plan and projects please visit:

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Jason Keller Named Assistant Director at Labor

On September 3rd, Illinois AFL-CIO Legislative Director Jason Keller was appointed the Assistant Director at the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) by Governor JB Pritzker. Upon the appointment, Keller joined IDOL Director, Michael D. Kleinick (LIUNA), in carrying out the mission of the IDOL.

Keller joined the Illinois AFL-CIO in November 2004 after graduating from the University of Iowa and serving as a Legislative Analyst for former Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. on the Senate Labor Committee. In his 15 year tenure at the Illinois AFL-CIO Jason oversaw numerous legislative accomplishments including, increasing the minimum wage twice, implementing independent contractor protections in the construction trades and mobilizing labor lobbyists against the Rauner Turnaround agenda.

Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan said, “Although we are sorry to see Jason leaving the Illinois AFL-CIO, we are happy that he will continue to be an advocate for working families at the Illinois Department of Labor.”

Keller’s appointment message for confirmation (AM 101-326) is currently before the Senate Executive Appointments Committee.
Decatur Teaching Assistants Suspend Strike

The Decatur Federation of Teaching Assistants, Local 4324, went on strike Tuesday. Today they announced they will head back to work without a contract.

Local 4324 represents approximately 275 employees in the community. These employees are teaching assistants, LPNs, hearing interpreters and hearing/vision technicians. They also work one-on-one with the students in the Macon-Piatt Special Education District.

The main issue is over health insurance. On top of their unwillingness to negotiate, the Decatur District 61 Board of Education alerted the union that their health insurance will be cancelled.

“They’re trying to hit us where it hurts and take away exactly what we’re fighting to keep”, stated DFTA Local 4324 President Paula Bussboom. “Instead they should be setting up a meeting with us through our mediator so we can settle this the right way and get back to our students with a settled contract.”

Collective bargaining began on April 15, 2019. The parties have met fourteen times, three times with a federal mediator. The contract expired on June 30, 2019.

Chicago Teachers Strike Ends after 11 Days

IFT President Dan Montgomery issued the following statement upon news of the end of the Chicago Teachers Union strike:

“The 103,000 members of the Illinois Federation of Teachers stand proudly with the Chicago Teachers Union. We thank you for your courage to fight for equity and justice in public education. Congratulations on winning a contract that honors the dignity and respect that students, teachers, and school staff deserve and helps to deliver to all the children of Chicago the education and services they need.”

United Auto Workers Win at GM/Ford

(Reprinted from UAW Region 4) UAW General Motors members ratified the 2019 Collective Bargaining Agreement ending the longest automotive strike in 50 years.

“General Motors members have spoken,” said Terry Dittes, UAW Vice President and Director of the UAW-GM Department.

“We are all so incredibly proud of UAW-GM members who captured the hearts and minds of a nation. Their sacrifice and courageous stand addressed the two-tier wages structure and permanent temporary worker classification that has plagued working class Americans.”

With ratification of the contract, the UAW members strike has ended, and workers will begin to report to work as instructed by General Motors.

The ratified contract includes an economic package of an $11,000 per member signing bonus, performance bonuses, two 3% annual raises and two 4% lump sum payments and holding the line on health care costs.

“We want to once again thank our members’ families and their local communities for their outpouring of support,” said UAW President Gary Jones. “Our members not only joined together in solidarity but felt the support of their whole community throughout this important stand.”

On Wednesday, the UAW Ford National Negotiators, UAW President Gary Jones along with UAW Vice President Rory Gamble, Director of the Ford Department, have announced that they have reached a proposed tentative agreement.
Be Part of a Lasting Legacy at the Illinois AFL-CIO

Celebrate organized labor with an engraved brick paver installed at the front plaza of the Illinois AFL-CIO to enhance the newly erected Reuben Soderstrom statue and labor history memorial. The project literally builds a piece of history, cementing donors’ support in perpetuity. Three different levels of sponsorship provide small and large engraved brick sizes or a large engraved metal plaque. Be sure to reserve a brick for your union or organization by filling out the information below and returning to the Illinois AFL-CIO.

Illinois AFL-CIO Plaza - Engraved Brick Fundraiser
8” x 8” Bricks $800 / 4” x 8” Bricks $400
Limited permanent engraved metal plaques are available for $5,000 each

ORDER FORM

Indicate below how you want your brick(s) engraved. To order multiple bricks, copy this form. Print one character (letter, punctuation or space) PER SPACE.

- $400 = 4” x 8” brick = 3 lines of 16 characters
- $800 = 8” x 8” brick = 6 lines of 16 characters

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- ___ each 4x8 Bricks @ $400
- ___ each 8x8 Bricks @ $800
- ___ each metal plaque @ $5000 (only 4 left)
  (we will contact you regarding the specifications and content for the metal plaque)

- ______ Donation Amount Enclosed

Make checks payable to Illinois AFL-CIO, 534 S. Second Street, Ste. 200, Springfield, IL 62701