

Resolution # 1

Anti – Worker Laws Must Be Repealed

WHEREAS, Florida holds the “distinction” of being the first State in the Union to adopt a “right to work” law in 1944; and

WHEREAS, the anti-worker-dominated Florida state legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis went even further in 2023 by enacting Senate Bill 256. This wildly anti-union law is designed to put public sector unions out of business. It requires long established unions under certain circumstances to be recertified every year and prohibits automatic dues deductions – essentially eliminating dues check-off for public sector workers in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, since the law was enacted, an estimated 42,000 workers have lost representation from unions unable to comply with its unreasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, TWU Local 291 has for decades maintained a dues-paying membership above 95 percent, despite Florida’s anti-worker laws. The Local has accomplished this powerful commitment from its membership by providing Miami-Dade transit workers with good contracts and benefits, and strong representation on the job; and

WHEREAS, the TWU International Union is committed to fighting back against any assault on workers’ rights, contracts, and dignity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the 27th Constitutional Convention of the Transport Workers Union of America, urge the TWU International to assist Local 291, Local 525, and other unions throughout the State of Florida to mount a multi-pronged effort to fight back against efforts to destroy Florida’s public sector unions to include:

- An internal membership organizing and education program to underscore the importance of unity within the rank-and-file to stand up against these attacks, and why it is vital to keep the loyal dues-paying members of Local 291 and Local 525 as close to 100 percent as possible.
- Implementation of a campaign of paid and earned media to build public support to repeal SB 256, and to shine a light of shame upon those who promoted this bill in the first place to the detriment of Florida’s working class.

- Assisting Local 291 and Local 525 in its ongoing effort to build a seamless system of electronic dues collection so the union can maintain its high standards of service to its members; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Convention urges the TWU and its Local affiliates across the United States to lead a political campaign to change the political discourse in state and local legislatures and to convince those lawmakers to move away from union-busting policies to enact pro-worker, pro-union laws.