



The government has put forward legislation that attempts to weaken your rights at work with the Trade Union Bill.

THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM

- Levels of strike action are 1/100th of the 1970s. Two thirds of action is for one day.
- Going on strike is a last resort. Workers do not want to go on strike – they lose pay. But industrial action is sometimes necessary for workers to have a voice.
- The plans have been criticised by employer organisations, the government's own regulatory policy committee who slammed it as 'not fit for purpose', and civil liberties groups.

WHAT DOES THE BILL MEAN?

AGENCY WORKERS

Employers will be allowed to use agency workers during disputes. This will overturn decades of employment practices and will raise 'real health and safety concerns' in our public services.

PROTESTS

There will be new restrictions on peaceful picketing and protest. The police will have to be told the name of picket organisers and any plans (including what they will post on social media) two weeks ahead of any planned action. Picket supervisors will be legally bound to wear an armband. This is both unworkable and raises strong civil liberties concerns.

'CHECK OFF'

Public sector workers won't be allowed to pay for union membership direct through salaries ('check off'). Deductions at payroll are a common way that employers help their employees manage their money – often childcare, travel, bike or computer payments are made this way. It's not clear why union membership fees should be singled out.

THRESHOLDS

Union ballots will be subject to thresholds that don't exist in any other democratic election. Abstentions will also be counted as 'NO' votes. This is against all democratic principles and will lead to perverse results. Someone forgetting to vote will, in some cases, have a much bigger impact than someone who actually votes YES or NO.



ALLOW UNIONS TO BALLOT MEMBERS ONLINE

Ballot turnouts are sometimes low because unions are required to work within a specially restrictive set of rules on how the votes can be run. They can't use secure online and workplace balloting, for example.

Unions are required to send every member a form in the post, which many don't notice amongst the junk mail or reply to in time if they can't do it there and then.

Online voting is good enough for choosing the Conservative candidate for London Mayor, but the government won't allow unions to do the same. The government say they want higher turnouts, why not let us vote online or in secure workplace ballots? **WHY?**

Oppose the Bill, write to your MP.

For more information about the campaign go to: tuc.org.uk/tubill

Get in touch with the TUC on campaigns@tuc.org.uk