

An important message from the



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

You may have recently received a postcard from the Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) urging you to drop your IFT membership and providing false information about the benefits members receive from their union.

Why does IPI care so much about your IFT membership?

Read on to learn about the IPI agenda and their attempts to attack union members in Illinois.



The IPI has an agenda and it isn't protecting workers.

Reject their anti-union efforts and stay committed to IFT!

Find more information about union news and benefits at ift-aft.org.

Who is the IPI?

- State-level affiliate of right-wing extremist organizations and activists like ALEC and the Koch Brothers.
- Funded by anti-union business leaders like Bruce Rauner, Richard Uihlein, and Ken Griffin.
- Headed by CEO John Tillman, who is accused of using the “not-for-profit” as a means to fill his own pockets (Chicago Sun-Times, 2/8/18).
- A vehicle for wealthy conservatives and corporations to affect public policy for their own benefit.

What is the IPI agenda?

- **WEAKEN UNION POWER** - IPI backed Mark Janus in *Janus v. AFSCME*, then hired him. They want to stifle the voice of unions.
- **ATTACK PUBLIC PENSIONS** - IPI wants to eliminate the pension protection clause in the Illinois Constitution.
- **CHARTER EXPANSION** - IPI is trying to remove all limits and public oversight to charter school authorization.
- **HIGHER HEALTH CARE COSTS** - IPI pushed for huge hikes in health care costs for retirees as well as state and university employees.

Why does IPI care about your IFT membership?

Strong unions like the IFT stand in the way of IPI and its anti-worker agenda. IPI wants to weaken us to advance policies that benefit the wealthy at the expense of Illinois working families.

Despite their constant attacks, the IFT is working hard to make sure your voice is heard. This year alone, we've used our power to:

- Secure funding for public education through a balanced and on-time state budget
- Repeal 3% pension cap
- Establish PSRP recall rights
- Appeal PERA legislation
- Abolish the Charter School Commission
- Enforce FOIA and Open Meetings Act in Chicago contract schools
- Win rights for graduate research assistants
- Increase the minimum wage