



**Faith Leader Sign-On Letter
To Pass Protecting The Right To Organize (Pro) Act**

As people of faith, we know supporting workers' freedom of association and the right of working people to organize unions is a moral issue and a fundamental human right.

Growing inequality is the root of many of the injustices we see today from wage disparities between workers and CEOs, attacking workers' rights on the job, weakening voting rights at the ballot box and on the worksite, the list goes on and on and we, as faith leaders cannot stand idly by. Passing the PRO Act is one of the most important things we can do in this generation to make our country more equitable.

Workers in America today are not getting a fair shake. Our basic labor law, which is supposed to protect the rights of workers to form a union and bargain collectively, is broken. In recent decades, employers have been able to violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) with impunity. For too long employers have punished striking workers by permanently replacing them. Many of our member faith traditions have spoken out against this practice recognizing the right to strike is fundamental to a democratic society.

Democracy and the labor movement are one and the same. Just as the PRO Act and voting rights are clearly connected. Every member gets one vote, and each vote counts the same. The PRO Act will give millions of workers the freedom to form a union without the fear of intimidation or retaliation. Right now, a workers' right to freely choose union representation without fear of reprisal has increasingly been eroded. Despite the weakening of workers' rights, research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows more than 60 million people would vote to join a union today if given the opportunity.

In Arizona, there has been a historic uptick of interest in joining a union across the state. In 2017, Arizona had 111,000 union members, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but in 2020, we reported 155,000 members. The will of the people is clear. In a recent survey done by Data for Progress, 65% of likely voters across party lines supported passing the PRO Act. Workers in Arizona want to join unions.

Furthermore, the PRO Act is more than labor reform, it is civil rights legislation. There is growing recognition that a union contract is the single best tool we have to close racial and gender wage gaps, and to ensure dignity and due process for workers,

regardless of where we were born, who we are or what industry we work in. And the reality has also set in that Arizona's right to work law is nothing more than a relic, designed to keep workers divided and weak and drive down wages across the state. We can do better.

The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act has passed the House with a bipartisan vote and is now in the hands of the Senate. The AFN Social Justice Commission urges the swift passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and calls on Arizona Senator Mark Kelly and Senator Krysten Sinema to co-sponsor this legislation.

We, the undersigned faith leaders share a commitment to human dignity and worker justice, and that is why we support the PRO Act. The PRO Act would be a deterrent to unethical employers, empower workers and help end workplace exploitation. Through the PRO Act, the lives of tens of millions of workers would improve, as well as the lives of their families; and communities would be stabilized for generations to come.

Arizona Faith Network

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

Presbytery of Grand Canyon, Presbyterian Church (USA), Tempe, AZ

National Council of Jewish Women, State Chapter, Arizona

Sema Foundation, Muslim, Arizona

Tempe Interfaith Council

Unitarian Universalist Association Pacific Western Region

WHEAT (World Hunger Ecumenical Az Task Force Inc), Phoenix, AZ

Rev. Bekah Krevens, Foothills Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Phoenix, AZ

Alice Stambaugh, Scottsdale Congregational UCC, United Church of Christ, Scottsdale, AZ

Billie Fidlin, United Methodist, Phoenix, AZ

Carlton Smith, Unitarian Universalism, Southwest Region

Creosote Partners, Phoenix, AZ

Diane Bowman, DWPA, Prescott, AZ

Dr. Tamera Zivic, WHEAT, Episcopal, Chandler, AZ

Gretchen Reinhardt, Quaker, Tempe Friends Meeting, Tempe, AZ

Holly Nipperus, Spiritual, Phoenix, AZ

Holly Heckart, Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Phoenix, AZ

James Ewing, United Church of Christ, Phoenix, AZ

Jo Vredenburg, Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, Tempe, AZ

Khalil Rushdan, Spiritual, Goodyear, AZ

Laurel Hardin, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Unitarian Universalism, Mesa, AZ

Leo Graf, Roman Catholic Church, Goodyear, AZ

Lisa Derrick, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Episcopal, Phoenix, AZ

Marie Norton, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Sun City, AZ
Mary Lynn Walters, Presbyterian USA, Phoenix, AZ
Margaret McChesney, Independent Catholic, Phoenix, AZ
Mustafa Bahar, Sema Foundation, Muslim, Chandler, AZ
Nancy Nonini, Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, Sun City, AZ
Oscar De Los Santos, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Episcopal, Phoenix, AZ
Paul Rockower, Jewish Community Relations Council of Phoenix, AZ
Rev. Corey Meier, The Church of the Epiphany, Episcopal, Tempe, AZ
Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann, University Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian USA, Tempe, AZ
Rev. Gerald Richard, Esq., Prince Chapel AME, African Methodist Episcopal, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Jose Olagues, Presbyterian Church (USA), Chandler, AZ
Rev. Kate Lehman, St. Teresa of Avila, Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Phoenix, AZ
Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood, Desert Dove, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, AZ
Rev. Kega Nasios, Ktizo United Church of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
Rev. Susan Valliquette, First Church United Church of Christ, Phoenix, AZ
Ruth Wooten, University Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Tempe, AZ
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Culture of Peace Alliance, Tucson Sikh Society, Tucson, AZ
St. Teresa of Avila, Ecumenical Catholic, Phoenix, AZ
Teri Conrad, Presbyterian Church (USA), Phoenix, AZ
Salena Petersen-Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian USA, Guadalupe, AZ
Shuru Vasu Bandhu, Zen Buddhism, Phoenix, AZ