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### **Repeated Polls Show NC Voters Support Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Workers**

A poll this month shows continued support for North Carolina public workers' collective bargaining rights. This is the latest in a series of repeated polls of North Carolina voters since 2005 showing long-term and broad support for public workers' collective bargaining rights. These findings are based on five statewide polls conducted since November, 2005, by UNC-Chapel Hill sociologist Andrew J. Perrin.

Dr. Perrin used the statewide Carolina Poll in November, 2005, November, 2006, and March, 2007, and fielded separate statewide polls in October, 2007, and May, 2008. These polls showed between 44.7% support/19.2% don't know (November, 2005) and 53.8% support/24.3% don't know (March, 2007) for overturning North Carolina's nearly unique ban on public employee collective bargaining. The most recent poll, taken earlier this month, shows 48.3% support for overturning the ban and 23.8% don't know. Only 28% were in favor of keeping the ban.

North Carolina is one of only two states that prohibit collective bargaining by associations of public-sector workers. The law prohibiting collective bargaining has come under fire in recent years from worker advocates in North Carolina and from international human rights groups. In 2007 the International Labor Organization, a human rights arm of the United Nations, held that the ban violated human rights standards. Similar complaints are pending at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) and the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC), the labor-standards governing body under NAFTA.

The May, 2008, survey of 799 registered voters was conducted May 1-2 by Public Policy Polling of Raleigh. All respondents were part of a fully representative sample of registered voters in North Carolina. Full text of question:

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND CITIES, TOWNS, COUNTIES AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKPLACES IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE NOT ALLOWED TO NEGOTIATE OR SIGN CONTRACTS WITH LABOR UNIONS REPRESENTING THEIR EMPLOYEES. WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE A LAW THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO DO SO?

1. Support	381	48.3%
2. Oppose	220	27.9%
3. No opinion	188	23.8%

(10 responses were invalid due to missing data)