June 4, 2021

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Jeff Liszt / Ben Lenet
Re: Summary of Survey Research on Public Service Worker Rights

There is strong support for the right of public service workers to form unions without interference and negotiate for pay and benefits. This includes support from across the political spectrum, and across racial and demographic lines.

Support for Public Service Workers’ Rights

► Two-thirds of registered voters are favorable toward public service workers unions (67% favorable / 20% unfavorable). This includes 79% favorable among Democrats, 55% favorable among Republicans, and 66% favorable among independents.

► Nearly 80% support the freedom of public service workers to choose to join a union without interference from employers so they can negotiate for pay and benefits (79% support / 14% oppose). Support is strong among Democrats (93%), Republicans (63%), and independents (80%).

Support for the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act

► There’s 70% support for the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (70% support / 22% oppose). Again, that support is strong across partisan lines, with 81% support from Democrats / 57% from Republicans / 71% among independents.

► Three-quarters (74%) of Democrats would be more likely to support a lawmaker who voted for this legislation, as would 52% of independents.

ALG Research conducted n=1,241 interviews with registered voters between June 2-8, 2021. Data include a national sample of n=800 registered voters and oversamples of n=214 registered voters in Arizona and n=217 in Virginia. Data are weighted demographically to accurately represent these populations.
While the numbers are lower among Republicans (39% more likely / 29% less likely) they’re still net positive.

Support remains strong after balanced messaging

We tested the following messages from supporters and opponents to simulate a balanced debate around the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act:

Supporters of this legislation say that public service workers like teachers, nurses, and sanitation workers deserve the freedom to choose whether to join a union without employer interference and have the right to collectively negotiate for fair compensation, safer job conditions, and better public services for the communities they serve.

Opponents of this legislation say it is an unnecessary overreach by the federal government that will cost taxpayers money while giving handouts to government union bosses. Opponents say states and cities should decide whether to allow public service workers to choose to join a union, not the federal government.

Support remains strong after messaging (66% support / 25% oppose).

Among Democrats, 80% remain in support, as are 67% of independents. Although the numbers are narrower among Republicans after they hear supporters’ and opponents’ arguments, Republicans still remain in support by an 8-point margin (49% support / 41% oppose).