AFSCME Chapter 31 Retirees gathered in Springfield on Jan. 27 to vote on the union’s legislative agenda and electoral endorsements.

Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a bill over the recent holiday season that would protect the integrity of the Community Care Program, a program that gives financial assistance to seniors and disabled persons wishing to stay in their homes.

Before senior service and disability advocates won the battle to fund the Community Care Program in the fiscal year 2017-18 budget, Rauner tried to cut $120 million from the 2017-18 budget, Rauner tried to cut $120 million from the 2017-18 budget, Rauner tried to cut $120 million from the 2017-18 budget, Rauner tried to cut $120 million from the 2017-18 budget.

AFSCME’s legislative team is building support for bills that would fund the remaining back pay still owed to many state retirees. Senate Bill 2269 is sponsored by Sen. Andy Manar (D) and Sen. Sam McCann (R); Rep. Jerry Costello (D) sponsors House Bill 4290.

In 2011, the state failed to pay a negotiated wage increase, citing lack of appropriated funds. AFSCME took the matter to arbitration and an independent arbitrator ruled that the union contract was binding and the increase must be paid. But the state appealed the arbitrator’s decision to state court.

After a very lengthy legal battle, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the wages were indeed owed, but a legislative appropriation is needed. AFSCME won inclusion of $50 million in the FY 2015 budget to pay a portion of what was owed state employees in back wages. In April 2016, AFSCME successfully lobbied inclusion of back pay in SB 2046, one of the budget bills that were sent to the governor’s desk that year. Rauner vetoed SB 2046 in July 2016.

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Support SB 2269 and HB 4290 to pay all wages owed.

Call 888-912-5959 and urge your legislators to vote YES!