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The West Virginia Legislature and the Governor have approved a bill that will prohibit employees from having public union dues deducted from their paychecks, a practice that has been the norm for decades. This, in addition to other bills addressing public education, is an orchestrated attack on your professional voice and freedom to belong to a union.

In order to continue coverage and benefits for members, such as liability insurance, grievance representation, life insurance, member benefits, and professional representation, AFT-WV is switching to a new Edues platform for electronic union dues payments.

**What is Edues?**

Edues is the new electronic payment system AFT-WV will be implementing in lieu of the threat to payroll deduction.

**How will it work?**

Edues will work with Bill Highway, a safe and secure online platform, to draft union dues from your bank account or credit card.

**How do I switch to this new Edues platform?**

Both current members and new members will need to switch to the new Edues payment system. We have electronic forms available, as well as paper forms. The member will complete one of the forms, indicate if they would like the withdrawal to come from their bank account or credit card account, and then return to the AFT-WV office by mail or to an AFT-WV staff rep (if paper form). If you fill out the form on our secure, encrypted online system, it automatically communicates with our office and our membership systems, so you will not need to submit anything further.

**What amount will be withdrawn for Edues?**

Every local has a different dues structure. Please contact your staff rep or the AFT-WV office at 304-344-2679 for dues amounts for your local.

**How often will Edues be deducted from my account?**

Dues will be deducted once a month, 12 months a year. Withdrawals will begin in September, 2021.

**Will there be any lapse in coverage for current members when switching from payroll deduction to Edues?**

No. There will not be a lapse in coverage between current membership during the switch from payroll deduction to Edues, *provided* that current members complete the Edues form prior to September 1st, 2021.

**I am not currently a member of AFT-WV, but would like to become one. How do I join?**

If you are not currently a member of AFT-WV but would like to join, you will need to complete an Edues form either electronically at [www.aftwv.org](http://www.aftwv.org) or on paper. Additionally, if you belong to another organization you will need to complete a drop card and return to AFT-WV so that we may submit the drop to the payroll department on your behalf.