

For Immediate Release:  
Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Contact: James Deegan (717)231-2867  
Bethany Bobb (717) 231-2852

**State House of Representatives Approves Resolution  
Urging Congress Not to Renew Fast Track Trade Authority for President**

Inspired by the sizable contingent of workers rallying in the Capitol Rotunda for health care for all, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved 133 to 66, ahead of schedule, House Resolution 276, asking members of the U.S. Congress to rescind the President's authority to unilaterally negotiate Fast Track Trade Agreements without input or amendments by Congress.

While House Members were casting their votes on the Fast Track Resolution, hundreds of workers were rallying in the Capitol Rotunda to urge enactment of legislation that would provide meaningful health insurance for the state's 800,000 uninsured workers and preserve the health care benefits for those workers already insured.

The Fast Track resolution urges members of Congress, including Pennsylvania's influential Ways and Means members, Reps. Allyson Schwartz and Phil English, to replace the President's Fast Track authority with a model that maintains the regulatory authority of the state, and allows consultation with representatives of state and local governments and industry regarding trade issues. The President's authority to negotiate fast track agreement expires on June 30, 2007 if Congress doesn't approve an extension.

Pennsylvania has lost more than 185,000 manufacturing jobs under NAFTA type trade agreements which do not include fundamental protections for workers and the environment. An extension of Fast Track will result in further job loss in the Pennsylvania making it even more difficult for workers to compete with foreign countries.

"Approval of this resolution sends a strong message to Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation to reject extension of Fast Track and replace it with a genuine democratic model which will benefit the working families of Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President William George said.