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FamilyVoice Stands with Red Union amid Crackdown

FamilyVoice Australia is calling on the Labor Government to withdraw the Associations Incorporation Reform Amendment Bill 2026, warning the public that a Bill sold as consumer protection would hand an unelected bureaucrat the power to shut down workers' organisations the Government does not like.

The Bill, introduced by Consumer Affairs Minister Tim Richardson on 11 August, would stop the Registrar of Incorporated Associations from registering, and require the Registrar to dissolve, any incorporated association with an "industrial relations purpose".

The definition is sweeping: furthering, protecting or representing the industrial interests of members. Its most obvious target is the Red Union network, which represents nurses, teachers and other frontline workers who have chosen not to join the established unions.

Thousands of Victorian nurses and teachers made that choice for reasons of conscience. They did not want their fees funding political campaigns they cannot support. Under this Bill the organisation they joined instead can be dissolved by a public servant, with appeals pushed to the Supreme Court rather than VCAT, putting the cost of a challenge beyond the reach of most community bodies.

FamilyVoice Australia Victorian State Director John Martin said the Government was legislating against its competition.

"It is unusual that the government is closing another loophole to keep its funding tap flowing? A government whose party is bankrolled by affiliated unions has no business deciding which unions Victorians are allowed to join," Mr Martin said.

"If workers are walking away, the answer is to serve them better, not to legislate the alternatives out of existence."

Victoria has more than 30,000 incorporated associations, among them churches, charities, sporting clubs and community groups. FamilyVoice Australia said that once Parliament accepts that a registrar may dissolve an association because of the purpose it holds, the precedent is set for every association in the state.

"We stand with the Red Union group, who have stood against indoctrination in schools,

and against compelled belief in the workplace. Their courage standing for their members is admirable, as they oppose the rot that exists in the Labor aligned unions.

“The right to associate must remain free for the people to decide, and the government has no say in this, especially when the Premier doesn’t approve of the group. We are pleased to see the Coalition oppose this bill.” Mr Martin said.

“Freedom of association is not a favour handed out by government.”

The Bill is due to return to Parliament in the coming sitting weeks. FamilyVoice Australia is calling on Victorian MPs, and particularly the crossbench in the Legislative Council, to reject the industrial relations provisions, and preserve the right of every Victorian to join the organisation of their choosing.

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