



## MOVE FORWARD: THE VALUE OF UNION

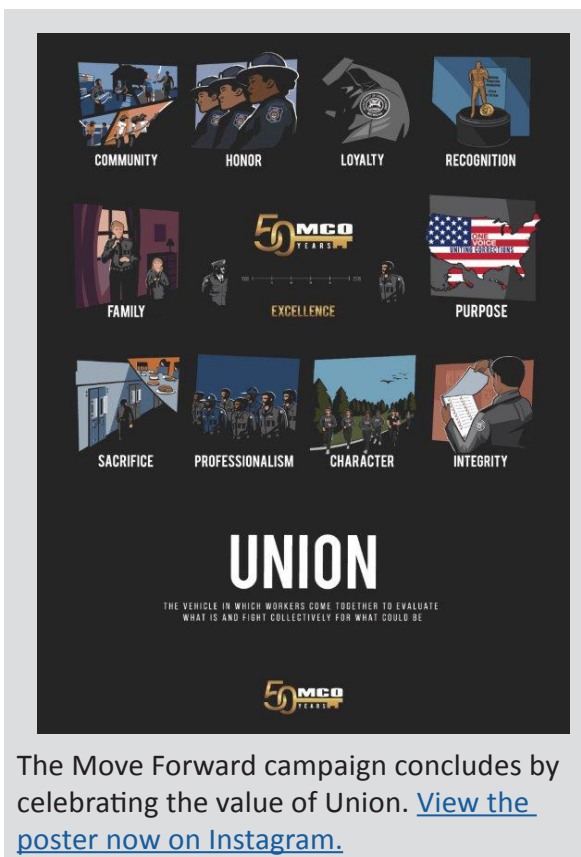
As we approach the end of 2018, MCO's [Move Forward](#) campaign concludes with the value of Union.

Move Forward has always been about much more than a simple poster, but what began as a statewide campaign to highlight the exceptional values of our members has grown into something much more important.

In the public or in our institutions, these values have set the backdrop for who we are and what we are about. They have allowed us to reshape the narrative of our profession and illustrate the values that make our members and our union a leader in our industry and important voice in securing long overdue respect and dignity in the workplace.

That sense of pride and professional respect has led to wins in more ways than one. In 2016, MCO won [recognition and health benefits for survivors](#) of officers who die in the line of duty. Our [Officer Dignity Initiative](#) brought awareness and improvements to the handling of dress outs and sexual deviant behavior by inmates toward staff and inspired two bills (HB [4118](#) and [4119](#)) currently pending in the legislature.

This year alone, our members have advocated on behalf of 17 bills to increase the safety and security of Michigan prisons and championed more awareness of PTSD in corrections. This led to the development of the MDOC-EPIC team on Employee Wellness (which includes MCO Execu-



The Move Forward campaign concludes by celebrating the value of Union. [View the poster now on Instagram.](#)

tive Board Member Marcus Collins) and a [\\$50,000 study](#) ordered by the legislature.

Our union has faced challenges in the past – bargaining impasses, assaults, riots – but we've kept up the fight and always stuck together. Move Forward is yet another way of displaying our resolve and showing we are up to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Move Forward doesn't end here. We must continue to be guided by the values that unite and advance us as sisters and brothers in the Union.

What does Move Forward and the value of Union mean to you? Email your thoughts to [anita@mco-seiu.org](mailto:anita@mco-seiu.org).

Read the full story on the value of Union at [mco-seiu.org/moveforward](http://mco-seiu.org/moveforward).

## IMPASSE BRIEF ONLINE NOW

MCO has filed a legal brief outlining our arguments for impasse. You can [read the brief and exhibits](#) on our website.

MCO Legal Director Jeff Foldie will argue our case before the impasse panel. The hearing will probably be the morning of Oct. 31. The hearing is open to the public, so MCO members may attend. As soon as we have confirmation of the exact time and date, we will share details with members. MCO staff is also trying to set up a livestream of the hearing. Stay tuned for more details.

Our primary concern at impasse is the dangerous staffing crisis. MDOC cannot retain officers and cannot recruit enough COs to keep up with vacancies. The MDOC has failed its officers by not addressing this years-long problem. Read more in our [Oct. 4 impasse announcement](#).

Thank you, members, for your continued support.

## MCO'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

More than one dozen MCO-backed bills are pending at the legislature. [This chart summarizes the bills](#) we've advocated for strongly during the 2017-2018 legislative session.

We also sent a [letter to every legislator](#) in the House and Senate urging them to take up these bills before the end of the 2018 legislative session.

Lobbying is just one piece of the work MCO does to promote professionalism and build awareness on issues that jeopardize the safety and security of members.

We'll keep you posted on the progress of these bills but encourage you to call your representatives and senators and tell them to act now and protect those who protect others. **See and share the chart on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).**