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Obama Team: More Forced Unionism 'Needed' *Massive Union Job Losses Make Case For 'Card-Check' Legislation?*

On January 22, the U.S. Labor Department issued a report providing a snapshot, in numbers, of some of the latest damage wrought to employees, employers, and the economy as a whole by government-imposed union monopoly bargaining.

The report shows that, in one major business sector after another, the jobs of workers who labor under forced unionism were far more likely to be destroyed during the 2008-2009 recession than were the jobs of union-free workers.

In the hard-hit telecommunications sector, for example, the number of jobs subject to union monopoly bargaining

plummeted by 20.7% last year, over four times the decline for union-free jobs.

Unionized construction jobs plunged by 20.0%. Over the same period, union-free construction jobs fell by 12.4%.

'These Numbers Show a Need For Congress to Pass' S.560/H.R.1409

The number of Big Labor-controlled manufacturing jobs declined by 14.3%, nearly four percentage points more than the decline for union-free jobs in manufacturing.

Overall, unionized private-sector employment sank by 9.4% last year, a decline more than double the total private-sector job loss of 4.4%.

Faced with these fresh figures indicating that having a union monopoly-bargaining agent negotiating one's terms of employment makes it more likely your company will have to slash jobs in bad times and less likely it will add jobs in good times, what did Obama-appointed Labor Secretary Hilda Solis conclude?

Incredibly, Ms. Solis concluded that the report shows the U.S. Congress should rewrite federal labor law to make it even easier for union bosses to seize monopoly-bargaining power over employees and businesses!

"These numbers," declared Ms. Solis in a press release issued the same day the BLS report came out, "show a need for Congress to pass" the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act" (S.560/H.R.1409), or its near equivalent.

The report also "makes clear why the [Obama] Administration supports" this legislation, Ms. Solis added.

"Despite ever-mounting evidence that enactment of S.560/H.R.1409 would be catastrophic for employees and businesses, and that the American people overwhelmingly oppose this legislation, the Obama Administration is going for broke," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"And Hilda Solis's reaffirmation of the Obama Administration's support for forced-unionism expansion is far from the only sign of what the White House has in store for this year.

"President Obama's recent decision to bring his 2008 campaign manager,



CREDIT: BIGGOVERNMENT.COM

Just days after Obama Labor Secretary Hilda Solis reaffirmed the President's support for S.560/H.R.1409, Right to

Work staff members delivered hundreds of thousands of petitions opposing this Big Labor scheme to Capitol Hill.

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Capitol Hill Showdown Expected

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unabashed Big Labor cheerleader David Plouffe, back into his inner circle is another.

"In a January 23 op-ed in the *Washington Post*, Mr. Plouffe called on Capitol Hill Democrats to ignore the polls and the stunning results of last month's special U.S. Senate election in Massachusetts and proceed with their plans to foist unpopular, pro-forced unionism health care 'reform' on the American people.

"If the President and top congressional leaders are eager, as it seems, to keep pursuing their radical bid to refashion the U.S. health care system, despite all the evidence it is a political loser, Right to Work supporters must also expect a 2010 floor showdown on S.560/H.R.1409 or a similar scheme."

'Plan B' Would Advance Same Ends as 'Card Check' Bill Through Alternative Means

The undisguised aim of S.560/H.R.1409 is to help Big Labor force millions of additional workers, union members and nonmembers alike, to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent in their dealings with their employer.

A major provision in this legislation would accomplish this goal by effectively ending secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns.

However, this "card-check" provision is so flagrantly anti-worker and unpopular with the public that

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), S.560's lead sponsor, has apparently concluded the bill in its current form may be too difficult to get through the Senate.

That's why Mr. Harkin and other Big Labor senators have worked behind the scenes to concoct a less obviously sinister "Plan B" that would accomplish S.560's forced-unionism objectives through somewhat different means.

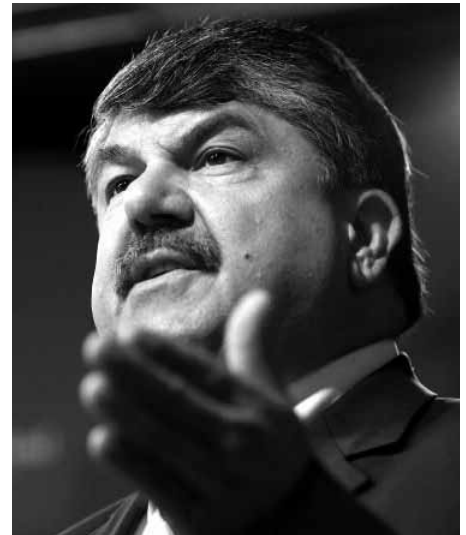
Top union bosses are reluctantly supportive of "Plan B" because they understand it will promote forced unionism, to virtually the same extent as S.560, by rewriting workplace election rules to tilt them even more steeply in union organizers' favor.

Union Bigwigs Calculate 'Plan B' Can Muster Necessary 60 Senate Votes

And union bigwigs like Richard Trumka, chief of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate, calculate that, by dropping the "card-check" provision in S.560 and perhaps modifying others, they can muster the 60 votes they need to bring up their power grab for a final Senate roll call so it can be passed and sent to the White House.

"There are a number of fence-sitting senators like Blanche Lincoln [D-Ark.] and Evan Bayh [D-Ind.] who, even though they voted for 'card-check' forced unionism in the past, are having second thoughts on backing S.560 in its current form," noted Mr. Mix.

"However, Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Bayh, and several other key senators in both parties have left the door open for supporting



CREDIT: LIFE

AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka: Congress will vote this spring to enact S.560/H.R.1409 or its near equivalent.

'Plan B' when it emerges in its final form and arrives on the Senate floor.

"Even newly elected GOP Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, who has commendably expressed his opposition to S.560's 'card check' provision, has yet to say how he would vote on a modified version of this legislation that promoted union monopoly bargaining by tampering with workplace election rules.

"That's why I think Right to Work supporters would be wrong to brush off AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka's recent prediction that the so-called 'Employee Free Choice Act' would pass, in one form or another, before this summer."

Right to Work Supporters Must Not Let Their Guard Down

"To keep Mr. Trumka's prediction from coming true, Right to Work staff members just delivered hundreds of thousands of petitions to Capitol Hill urging members of Congress to oppose S.560 and H.R.1409, the Harkin bill's House companion, as well as all pro-forced unionism 'Plan B' schemes, on all votes," Mr. Mix added.

"As long as Right to Work members and supporters keep turning up the heat on their senators and congressmen over the next few months, I'm optimistic Mr. Trumka will be proven wrong, and nothing resembling S.560/H.R.1409 will be adopted in this Congress.

"But now is no time for Right to Work supporters to let their guard down."

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Vote For Craig Becker = Vote For Union Monopoly

President Renominates Radical Union Lawyer, Senators Feel Heat

Recently, a number of U.S. senators with pro-forced unionism track records have started to catch on to the fact that their votes in favor of corralling workers into unions will be major political liabilities the next time they try to get reelected.

Consequently, longtime Big Labor lackey senators like Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) are now trying to backpedal away from their June 2007 ballots in support of cutting off debate on the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill (then H.R.800) so that it could be rammed through the Senate.

Having seen dramatic drops in their poll numbers over the past year, and knowing their current terms end in January 2011, Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Bayh are now suggesting they would not again vote for the "card-check" bill (now S.560/H.R.1409) in its current form.

But pro-Right to Work constituents of Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Bayh, and other such ideologically "flexible" politicians have good reason to doubt the sincerity of their (political) deathbed conversions.

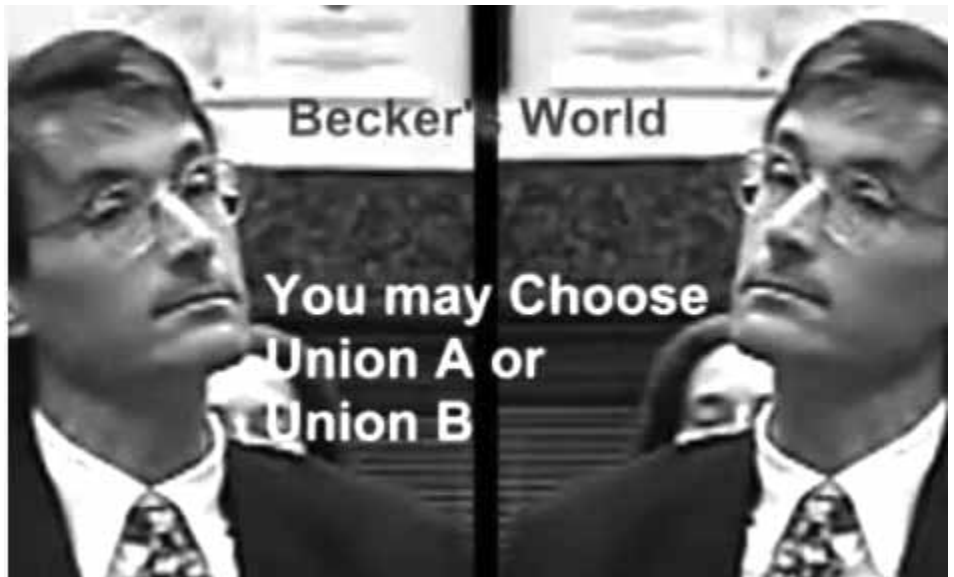
And within the next few weeks, freedom-loving constituents may get a better idea of whether or not senators like Ms. Lincoln and Mr. Bayh are serious about distancing themselves from their pro-forced unionism pasts, or simply blowing smoke as they quietly plan to keep doing Big Labor's bidding.

Craig Becker: Union Monopoly Should Be Mandated, Even if Most Workers Don't Want It

Just days after the Senate reconvened last month, President Obama resubmitted to the chamber his nomination of radical Service Employees International Union (SEIU) lawyer Craig Becker to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Currently, three of the five NLRB seats are vacant. A year ago, Mr. Obama designated as board chairman former union lawyer Wilma Liebman, who once served as council for the notorious Teamster Union.

Consequently, if the Senate confirms Mr. Becker and fellow union lawyer Mark Pearce, another of the President's pending NLRB nominations, former union lawyers will hold three of the five seats on the board.



"Becker Alert," a Committee video exposing the disturbing record of and radical positions espoused by Obama

NLRB nominee Craig Becker, has played a major role in making this nomination controversial on Capitol Hill.

Regardless of how they vote, Mr. Obama's other nominee, GOP Senate staffer Brian Hayes, and George W. Bush appointee Peter Schaumber will be able to do very little to prevent the union-lawyer majority from creatively "reinterpreting" federal labor law to make it more pro-forced unionism.

"The NLRB interprets and administers federal labor laws covering over 90% of businesses and private-sector employees," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"When a President nominates a forced-unionism extremist who would often cast deciding votes on the board, responsible senators will vote to block the nomination.

"And Craig Becker is, without a doubt, an extremist. Over the years, he has publicly acknowledged believing that any employee or employer efforts to resist unionization of a workplace are unacceptable.

"For example, in one 'labor studies' journal article, Mr. Becker dismissed the notion that workers should have any say whatsoever, whether as individuals or collectively by secret ballot or 'card check,' over whether or not they are unionized.

"Federal policy should not acknowledge employees' choice to remain unrepresented," contended Mr. Becker.

"Their only choice, he explained, should be over which set of union officials get 'exclusive' power to negotiate their wages, benefits, and work rules."


Committee's 'Becker Alert' Has Helped Mobilize Opposition to Nominee

Ever since the President first announced last spring his intention to put Mr. Becker on the NLRB, the Committee has led the charge against the nomination.

Even before the Becker nomination was formally submitted to the Senate last July, the Committee had posted on its web site a video "Becker Alert" sounding the alarm about his radical views.

Subsequently, several business and citizen groups, as well as congressional staff members, used this video as evidence for why the nomination should be opposed.

"The Committee strongly opposed the Becker nomination from the outset. Since then, a number of other major groups have enlisted in the fight," said Mr. Mix.

"Every senator has now been put on notice: A vote for Craig Becker, just as much as a vote for S.560, is a vote for union monopoly." 

Committee Helps Restore First Amendment Rights

Supreme Court Largely Overturns Phony Campaign 'Reform' Law

Nearly eight years ago, a coalition of voluntary associations, including the National Right to Work Committee, launched a legal effort to get key anti-free speech provisions in the so-called Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (or BCRA) overturned in court.

In December 2003, the efforts of this free-speech coalition seemed to fail, when a bitterly divided U.S. Supreme Court upheld the BCRA's onerous restrictions on election-year lobbying of Congress in its 5-4 *McConnell v. Federal Election Commission* decision.

However, free-speech advocates, including the Committee, didn't give up.

They kept fighting, and ultimately they persuaded the High Court to hear *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, another sweeping challenge of the BCRA. The Committee itself submitted a brief in support of this suit.

And on January 21, the High Court voted 5-4 in *Citizens United* to reverse *McConnell* on key points, finally holding that Congress cannot constitutionally pick and choose who may speak about political candidates and issues, and who must be silent.

The majority opinion also dealt a stern rebuke to the bureaucrats at the Federal Election Commission (FEC), who for decades have contended that single-issue lobbying groups like the Committee are prohibited from spending their voluntary contributions on an array of public communications.

Committee May Now Speak Independently About Issues, Without Fear of Prosecution

For example, FEC bureaucrats have contended, time and again, that it is illegal for the Committee to use organizational funds to pay for the public dissemination of candidate survey responses revealing which candidates pledge to support Right to Work 100% if elected, and which are keeping their plans secret.

The *Citizens United* ruling clearly affirms the Committee's long-held position that the FEC has acted unconstitutionally when attempting to restrict speech in this way.

The BCRA's selective assault on the First Amendment protections of associations almost completely ignored

Big Labor expenditures of union dues money that workers are forced to pay as a job condition on campaign phone banks, get-out-the-vote drives, and paid "volunteers."

The vast majority of union political spending goes into such programs. They are plainly designed to elect Big Labor puppet politicians and defeat politicians who refuse to kowtow to union bosses. Yet forced dues-funded electioneering schemes have remained virtually unregulated under the BCRA.

"From the time it took effect until *Citizens United* overturned some of its core provisions, the BCRA tilted the electoral playing field even further in favor of the union bosses," commented Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"Broadcast ads that had been bought by citizens' groups with their own money to lobby politicians when they listen best, during campaign season, were redesignated as 'campaign contributions' and subjected to tight regulation.

"But the hard-won *Citizens United* decision will greatly enhance the Committee's ability to speak independently about issues, without fear of prosecution.

"This decision even makes it clear, for the first time, that the Committee may use its funds to pay for

communications that expressly advocate the election of a pro-Right to Work candidate and or the defeat of a pro-forced unionism candidate!"

Compulsory-Dues Repeal Key to Genuine Reform

Many Big Labor politicians, led by President Barack Obama, have already lashed out publicly at the *Citizens United* ruling. Mr. Obama and likeminded politicians appreciated how the BCRA curtailed the freedom of pro-Right to Work Americans, and were very annoyed to see the Supreme Court interfere.

Other BCRA advocates like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), one of the law's two lead sponsors in the Senate, are simply misguided.

"If Congress ever genuinely wants to clean up federal politics, it can start by repealing the federal labor-law provisions authorizing forced union dues: the root cause of the largest and most egregious form of political corruption plaguing America today," said Mr. Stafford.

"But the BCRA's fraudulent 'reform' only made matters worse. Thank God the Supreme Court has now undone most of the damage." 📌



CREDIT: TV WEEK

A U.S. Supreme Court decision last month restored associations' freedom to speak independently about candidates

and issues, using general funds, without fear of prosecution. Big Labor politicians like President Obama were outraged.

Government Union Bosses Suffer TSA Setback

Despite Big Labor's Intense Support, Southers Nomination Sinks

President Obama, Big Labor U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), and union-label House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) are all eager to help government union bosses grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over more than 45,000 airport screeners employed at the Transport Security Administration.

At the same time, however, neither the President nor the two congressional leaders seem to want to accept accountability for corralling TSA employees into a union. Mr. Obama, Mr. Reid, and Ms. Pelosi know that foisting a union monopoly on a federal agency that is critical for national security would be very unpopular.

That's why, until very recently, they planned to let Erroll Southers do their dirty work.

Last September, the President named Mr. Southers, a former FBI agent, as his choice to head the TSA.

Had the Senate confirmed him as assistant secretary of the Department of Homeland Security for the TSA, Mr. Southers would have had the discretion to rescind administratively the prohibition on union monopoly bargaining over federal airport screeners imposed in 2003.

Unionization Would 'Make It Harder' For TSA to 'Meet Changing Terrorist Threats'

And, even though Mr. Southers refused to say publicly whether or not he intended to hand government union bosses monopoly power to bargain over airport screeners' working conditions once the Senate had confirmed him, Big Labor was obviously confident he would do just that.

On September 10, 2009, even before the President had officially nominated Mr. Southers, top bosses of the American Federation of Government Employees union (AFGE/AFL-CIO), who expect to be the principal beneficiaries of TSA monopoly bargaining, issued a press release applauding the choice.

The release quoted AFGE union President John Gage: "The question of [monopoly] bargaining . . . at TSA is not a matter of 'if,' but 'when.' We are confident that the appointment of Mr.



CREDIT: FOX NEWS

On the airwaves and in private discussions with pro-Right to Work senators, Mark Mix has made the case

that the current prohibition on union monopoly bargaining at the TSA should remain in place.

Southers as administrator will help put that matter to bed."

By late November, the AFGE hierarchy appeared to be on the verge of having its way. Two Senate committees had already rubber-stamped the nomination in lopsided votes.

But the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.5 million members weren't ready to let AFGE union kingpins coercively collectivize TSA airport screeners without a fight.

Working closely with key pro-Right to Work senators, the Committee moved late last fall to block the confirmation of Erroll Southers, and thus prevent union bosses from obtaining monopoly power to negotiate over how airport screeners do their jobs.

Handing Big Labor this power would, as the respected *Wall Street Journal* editorial page has pointed out, "make it harder for the executive branch to hire, fire, train and reassign workers to best meet changing terrorist threats."

Pro-Right to Work South Carolina Senator Placed 'Hold' on Nomination

On November 29, pro-Right to Work Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) placed a "hold" on the Southers nomination, indicating his intent to prevent the nomination from moving forward until Mr. Southers had stated publicly and plainly whether or not he intended to unionize the TSA, and explained the reasons for his stance.

Subsequently, several other pro-Right to Work senators, including Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), declared that they also had "serious concerns" about Mr. Southers.


Nevertheless, Senate Majority Leader Reid vowed he would push aside all objections and ram through the nomination, without any additional debate, shortly after the Senate reconvened on January 19.

However, on January 20, beset by questions not just about whether he would impose union monopoly bargaining at the TSA, but also about his improper handling of confidential FBI files while employed there and his false testimony regarding the latter matter, Mr. Southers pulled out his nomination.

Battle Over TSA Employees' Right to Work Goes On

"Thanks largely to the diligence of Right to Work legislative staff and the principled stance of Sen. DeMint, the AFGE union bosses' scheme to seize monopoly-bargaining power over federal airport baggage screeners has been temporarily derailed," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"Unfortunately, it is almost inevitable that President Obama's next nominee to head the TSA, whoever that is, will wear a union label."

"Once again, it will be up to Right to Work allies in the Senate to make sure the nominee provides clear answers on the monopoly-bargaining question before he or she is confirmed." 

'Green Shoots' Sprout in Right to Work States

Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama Benefit From Major New Investments

Although manufacturing employment nationwide continues to fall despite some signs of nascent recovery from the 2008-2009 recession, automotive manufacturing jobs appear already to be on the rise again in states that protect employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to a union.

One leading indicator is the new, billion-dollar assembly plant in Right to Work Georgia that began producing the new, 2010 Kia Sorento crossover vehicle in November 2009.

The plant is located in West Point, a small town on the Chatahouchee river, near its westernmost point (hence the town's name), and 30 miles from mid-sized Columbus, Ga.

When the plant is fully operational, Kia promises it will provide good-paying jobs for more than 2500 workers. On-site and nearby suppliers will create an additional 7500 jobs in the region.

Big Labor Stronghold States Have Been Losing Auto Factory Jobs For Decades

The number of automotive and automotive-supplier manufacturing

jobs has been plummeting in Big Labor stronghold states like Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania for decades, not just during the recent recession.

But employment across the sector has been increasing for decades, with only occasional interruptions, in many Right to Work states.

An analysis conducted a couple of years ago by the well-regarded consulting firm Economy.com documented automotive employment trends in all states that had 10,000 or more manufacturing jobs in the sector as of 2000.

Eleven states included in the analysis had Right to Work laws, which protect workers from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union, throughout the 1986 to 2006 period. They collectively increased their automotive manufacturing jobs from 164,000 to 268,000, or 63%.

And automotive manufacturing employment held virtually steady in Oklahoma, which passed its Right to Work law in 2001.

Meanwhile, aggregate automotive manufacturing employment in the 11 non-Right to Work states included in the analysis fell from 851,000 to 721,000, or 15%, between 1986 and 2006.

Of course, as automotive sales plummeted in 2008 and last year, manufacturing employment in the sector declined nationwide.

New Volkswagen Facility Scheduled to Open Next Year in Chattanooga, Tenn.

But recently automotive companies began making major job-creating investments in a number of Right to Work states in order to take advantage of what they anticipate will be a substantial sales recovery this year.

In addition to Kia's West Point factory, examples include a new Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., which is scheduled to begin production next year. Volkswagen expects the plant to generate roughly 2000 jobs.

A third example is Mercedes' ongoing expansion of its complex in Vance, Ala. The company will spend \$140 million for equipment and process upgrades, including more robotics, in other parts of the facility.

Forced Dues Help Big Labor Implement Tax & Spend, Regulation-Happy Agenda


It's an obvious fact that auto industry investment in recent years has been heavily concentrated in Right to Work states. But why?

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen observed:

"Right to Work laws mitigate the harm that federally-imposed 'exclusive' union bargaining does to employees and businesses.

"In forced-unionism states, union officials have more money and power to advance their legislative agenda, which includes higher taxes, more government spending, and straightjacket regulation of business.

"That's another reason why veteran site selection consultants whose careers depend on giving sound advice to clients about where to locate or expand their firms view Right to Work as a crucial criterion.

"As national site consultant Bob Goforth has put it: "[I]f you're not a Right to Work state, you don't play in the game." 



CREDIT: THE DETROIT BUREAU

The new \$1 billion Kia assembly plant that began operating in November 2009 in West Point, Ga., is a leading

indicator of renewed automotive manufacturing job growth in Right to Work states.

No Escape From Public-Sector Union Bosses?

Congress Targets Taxpayer Sanctuaries From Big Labor Monopolists

As a group, taxpayers strongly believe they are worse off with the combination of taxes and public services they get in states in which more than half of public employees have a union exercising "exclusive" (monopoly) power to negotiate their wages, benefits, and working conditions.

And the compelling evidence that taxpayers prefer not to live in such government union-boss strongholds when they have a choice is furnished by the Statistical Information Service (SIS) of the IRS.

The SIS records the number of personal income tax filers who move (typically with their dependents) across state lines, based on year-to-year changes shown on individual tax returns. SIS data are arranged according to the year taxes are filed.

For example, data for the Tax Filing Year 2008 show that a total of 1.247 million personal income tax filers were residing in a high government-union-density state in 2007, but filed from somewhere else in the U.S. in 2008.

Public-Sector Union Fiefdoms Are Losing Massive Amounts Of Income as Well as People

Meanwhile, a total of 1.071 million tax filers were residing in a high government-union-density state in 2008 after residing somewhere else in the U.S. the year before.

That means, between 2007 and 2008 alone, a net total of 176,000 tax filers moved from a government union fiefdom to a state in which public-sector union bosses wield less power.

Over the last eight years for which data are available (Tax Filing Years 2001-2008), a net total of over 1.53 million tax filers moved from a state in which more than 50% of government workers were subject to union monopoly bargaining as of 2000 to a state in which government forced unionism is less pervasive.

(According to economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson, as of 2000 more than half of public-sector employees were unionized in 15 states: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York,

Net Movement of Tax Filers, Income Out of 15 Highest Public-Sector Union-Density States

Year	Net Tax Filers Lost	Net Income Lost
2001	108,000	\$9.2 billion
2002	144,000	\$10.8 billion
2003	142,000	\$10.1 billion
2004	208,000	\$13.5 billion
2005	254,000	\$17.1 billion
2006	255,000	\$17.5 billion
2007	239,000	\$16.5 billion
2008	176,000	\$13.2 billion

Aggregate adjusted gross incomes for all tax filing years are converted into 2008 dollars. Losses cited are for the 15 states in which more than 50.0% of public-sector employees were under union monopoly bargaining as of 2000.

Sources: IRS Statistical Information Service, Drs. Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson

Year after year, far more taxpayers are moving out of government union boss-controlled states than are moving into

them. And such states are consequently losing enormous amounts of income (and tax revenue).

Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin.)

Also over the past eight years, a net total of roughly 950,000 tax filers fled to states that had public-sector unionization of less than 25% as of 2000. And a net total of roughly 580,000 fled to a state in which between 25.0% and 49.9% of public employees were under Big Labor control as of 2000.

The SIS also calculates and makes available to the public the aggregate adjusted gross incomes for households in the year immediately following their move.

While SIS data do not convey how much taxpayers who flee forced-unionism states earn any later than the first year after they depart, forced-unionism states' losses due to domestic out-migration are clearly recurring and compounding, year after year.


Counting just the income lost by government union stronghold states in the first year after each tax filer moved out, these 15 states lost a net total of \$107.9 billion (in constant 2008 dollars) due to domestic out-migration over the 2001-2008 period.

The actual total net loss, including income reported by tax filers in all years subsequent to their migration, is very likely at least four times higher, but cannot be calculated with available data.

Pending Federal Legislation Would Lead to Destruction of State Taxpayer Sanctuaries

State and local taxpayers' ability to vote with their feet against public-sector union monopoly bargaining and other policies that promote overtaxation is gradually eroding the tax bases of government union boss-controlled states.

However, the Big Labor U.S. Congress is now poised to enact radical legislation (H.R.413/S.1611) that would lead to the imposition of union monopoly bargaining on state and local public employees nationwide -- and thus leave beleaguered taxpayers with nowhere to flee.

For more information on H.R.413/S.1611, see page eight. 

Localities Brace Themselves For H.R.413/S.1611

Big Labor-Appeasing GOP Politicians Abetting Obama Power Grab

This winter, state and local elected officials around the country are expressing their serious concerns about a proposed new federal mandate foisting union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) on state and local police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

The legislation pending in the U.S. Congress, H.R.413/S.1611, is cynically mislabeled by proponents as the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act," but in reality it would incite conflict between government agencies and employees and hurt taxpayers, many local officials charge.

For example, just last month, the supervisors of Yavapai County in central Arizona wrote to their U.S. representative, Democrat Ann Kilpatrick, and GOP Sens. John McCain and Jon Kyl to warn them the legislation would "place restrictions on counties that prohibit managing employees efficiently"

"I don't think it's the federal government's business what we're doing with our local government," supervisors Chairman Chip Davis told his local newspaper. "It also hamstring us."

Late last year, Charleston, W.Va., Mayor Danny Jones was even more blunt in a newspaper interview, starkly predicting the legislation could "bankrupt" his city and adding:

"It's going to change things. The relationship [between the city and the police union] will become adversarial. . . . If you look around the states, the most unionized states are the ones that are most broke."

Dozens of Republicans in Congress Greasing Skids For Government Union Kingpins

One key reason why some observers regard H.R.413/S.1611 as nearly a fait accompli, despite intense grass-roots opposition, is that dozens of Capitol Hill Republicans like Buck McKeon (Calif.) and John Kline (Minn.) have pushed such legislation in the past.

Mr. McKeon was previously ranking minority member of the House Education and Labor Committee, and Mr. Kline now holds that position.

But despite the wrongheaded and futile efforts by Mr. McKeon, Mr. Kline, and many other GOP politicians to appease Big Labor by going along with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), and the Obama Administration on this issue, the battle is not over yet.

Thanks to the ongoing financial and moral support of the 2.5 million National Right to Work Committee members and supporters, Committee

staff have since late 2008 succeeded in getting more and more groups and individuals actively involved in the fight against federal police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation.

While organizations representing the interests of local governments and public-safety departments, such as the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), have opposed this scheme for years, members of Congress are now hearing much more from local public officials, thanks largely to Committee staffers' leadership.

And the Committee ranks available to fight H.R.413/S.1611 grew dramatically in 2009 as a result of mounting public concern about the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill (H.R.1409/S.560) and other higher-profile Big Labor power grabs before Congress.


Firefighters Union Czar: 'In Spite of Our Best Efforts,' Measure Hasn't Passed Yet

The fact that H.R.413/S.1611 is facing unexpectedly stiff grass-roots resistance was recently confirmed by none other than Harold Schaitberger, czar of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF/AFL-CIO) and the acknowledged leader of Big Labor efforts to get this legislation enacted.

In a late December letter to IAFF District vice presidents and other IAFF union officials, Mr. Schaitberger conceded that the union's lobbying machine had just tried without success to get H.R.413 attached onto H.R.3326, the "must-pass" Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill.

According to Mr. Schaitberger, this did not happen, "in spite of our best efforts," because a number of senators who have up to now supported police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation vowed to oppose attaching it to H.R.3326.

"While Mr. Schaitberger and his cohorts are sure to try again soon to sneak the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill through Congress, their failure to do so up to now is encouraging," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

"Right to Work supporters still face an uphill battle against this power grab. But the battle is winnable." 



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In their quest to federalize union monopoly-bargaining control over state and local public-safety employees, Big

Labor Democrats Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid have all too many GOP collaborators on Capitol Hill.