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'Nowhere to Flee' For Young Job Seekers?

Forced-Unionism Expansion Bill Would Kill Prospects For Millions

According to a scientific poll conducted by the respected Research 2000 firm, 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe workers in unionized workplaces who don't want a union should "have the right to bargain for themselves."

Unfortunately, for three-quarters of a century, federal labor law has actively promoted what Americans, according to the Research 2000 poll and many others, overwhelmingly oppose.

The 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the 1934 Railway Labor Act (RLA) amendments hand union officials the power to force millions of workers, union members and nonmembers alike, to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent in their dealings with their employer.

Attack on Secret Ballot Only One Trick in Union Monopolists' Playbook

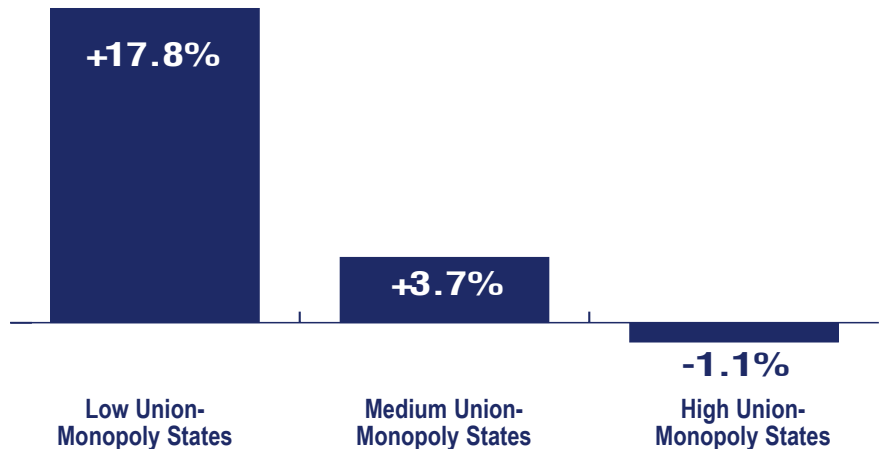
And this year Congress is very likely to bring up for floor votes legislation that would help Big Labor corral millions of additional workers into unions.

Until recently, union strategists' primary vehicle for expanding private-sector union monopoly bargaining in the current Congress was S.560/H.R.1409, the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act."

This legislation is designed to help union bosses sharply increase the share of all workers who are under union monopoly control by effectively ending secret-ballot elections in union organizing campaigns.

However, the National Right to Work Committee and its allies have mobilized massive public opposition to S.560/H.R.1409, greatly lowering its

Growth in the Number of Residents Aged 25-34, 1998-2008



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Drs. Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson

"Low union-monopoly" states had 1998 private-sector unionization of 6.4% or less.

"Medium union-monopoly" states had 1998 private-sector unionization of 6.5% to 11.0%.

"High union-monopoly" states had 1998 private-sector unionization of 11.1% or more.

Young adults who can't find decent job opportunities in heavily unionized states simply pick up and leave for

states like Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina, where they routinely fare much better.

prospects for passage in its current form.

In response, Big Labor Capitol Hill politicians and union lobbyists are now concocting new legislation designed to accomplish the same objective through somewhat different means.

Monopoly Unionism Negatively Correlated With Private-Sector Growth

"The Committee and its 2.5 million members have led the opposition to

S.560/H.R.1409, because this scheme would greatly exacerbate the harm caused by the forced-unionism provisions in the NLRA and RLA," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

"The 'Plan B' forced-unionism expansion legislation now being crafted by Big Labor Sen. Tom Harkin [D-Iowa] and a handful of his cohorts could be even more harmful.

"And experience indicates enactment of either S.560/H.R.1409 or a 'Plan B'

See Capitol Hill page 2

Capitol Hill Showdown Expected

Continued from page 1

alternative would drastically reduce employment opportunities in addition to taking away the freedom of now-independent workers.

"For example, as a group, the 10 states that had the highest shares of their private-sector employees under union monopoly bargaining in 2003 experienced barely more than half as much real economic output growth over the next five years as did the 10 states with the lowest private-sector unionization.

"An even more compelling illustration of how Big Labor monopoly snuffs out economic dynamism is the mass movement of young adults out of the states where union bosses wield the most power."

Mr. Mix noted that U.S. Census Bureau data show that, in states that had private-sector unionization of less than 6.5% in 1998, the total number of 25-34 year olds in 2008 was 12.304 million, an increase of 17.8% over these states' aggregate population in that age bracket a decade earlier.

Were It Not For 'Safety-Valve' States, National Unemployment Would Be Even Worse

Over the same 10-year period, the 25-34 year-old population increased by just 3.7% in states with 1998 private-

sector unionization of 6.5% to 11.0%, and *decreased* by 1.1% in states with 1998 private-sector unionization of more than 11.0%.

By 2008, the 25-34 year-old population of the states where private-sector union bosses wield the least monopoly-bargaining power was higher by 1.28 million than it would have been had it increased at the national average rate over the previous decade.

And other Census data show these states' outsized growth in their young-adult population was overwhelmingly the result of migration from other states, not higher 1974-1983 birth rates or immigration from abroad.

"Up to now, low-union-density states like Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina have furnished a 'safety valve' for Big Labor strongholds like New York, New Jersey, Michigan and California," commented Mr. Mix.

"Young adults who can't find decent job opportunities in heavily unionized states simply pick up and leave for states like Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina, where they routinely fare much better.

"As bad as unemployment is today in union-label New York, New Jersey, Michigan and California, it would be far worse were it not for the 'safety-valve' states.

"Incredibly, the avowed goal of S.560 lead sponsor Tom Harkin and other Big Labor politicians in Congress is to eliminate these pockets of long-term job growth! Of course, the vast majority of them are Right to Work states."

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

Mr. Mix continued: "Rewriting federal labor to make Texas's private-sector unionization rate as high as California's is today would certainly be a radical move.

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

"There are a number of fence-sitting senators like Blanche Lincoln [D-Ark.] and Ben Nelson [D-Neb.] 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.

"However, Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Nelson, and several other key senators in both parties have left the door open for supporting 'Plan B' when it emerges in its final form and arrives on the Senate floor.

"Even recently 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."

Right to Work Supporters Must Not Let Their Guard Down

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

"However, as long as Right to Work members and supporters keep turning up the heat on Congress with their postcards, phone calls, letters, signed petitions, and personal visits, I'm optimistic Mr. Trumka will be proven wrong.

"Now is no time for Right to Work supporters to let their guard down." 📣



CREDIT: WWW.CRISTYL.COM

Just as they keep maneuvering to remake America's health-care system this year, despite lopsided public opposition,

President Obama and his allies in Congress are continuing their push for forced-unionism expansion legislation.

Radical NLRB Nominee Blocked in Senate

But President Obama Refuses to Back Down, Threatens 'End Run'

Ever since April 2009, when President Barack Obama first announced his intention to put radical Service Employees International Union (SEIU) lawyer Craig Becker on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the National Right to Work Committee has led the charge against the nomination.

Even before the Becker nomination was formally submitted to the U.S. Senate last July, the Committee had posted on its web site a video "Becker Alert" sounding the alarm about his extremist 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. A number of other major groups have since enlisted in the fight," noted Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"And last month, on February 9, Right to Work supporters and their allies scored a significant victory with the defeat in the Senate of a Big Labor-backed 'cloture' motion that would have ended debate on the Becker nomination, paving the way for its quick approval."

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

"Unfortunately, 52 senators, including all but two of the Democrats who cast ballots, voted to rubber-stamp this nomination," Mr. Stafford cautioned.



CREDIT: DALLASNEWS.COM

AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka: The White House must bypass Senate resistance to Craig Becker.

"However, this was eight votes fewer than the 60 needed to cut off Right to Work debate and bring the Becker nomination up for final consideration.

"If the Senate had confirmed Mr. Becker as part of a package along with the two other pending nominees for the five-member panel, he would very frequently have been in a position to cast the deciding vote in NLRB cases.

"The NLRB interprets and administers labor laws covering over 90% of businesses and private-sector employees. It is no place for a forced-unionism extremist.

"And that is surely what Craig Becker

is. 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."


Richard Trumka Lays Down the Law For Obama White House

Top union bosses are furious that, because of well-mobilized opposition to Craig Becker's radicalism, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) failed to muster the 60 votes he needed to win approval of the Becker nomination.

Now Richard Trumka, chief of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate, is urging union officials and union militants nationwide to contact the White House, "demanding" that the President circumvent the Senate and install Craig Becker on the NLRB temporarily through a "recess" appointment.

And the White House has already suggested that, if the Senate does not submit to the President by bringing up the Becker nomination again and giving it the green light by the end of this month, Mr. Obama will in fact recess appoint Mr. Becker as soon as the Senate commences the break scheduled for March 29.

"In the past, Presidents have rarely granted recess appointments to nominees who have already come up for consideration in the Senate, and failed to be approved," noted Mr. Stafford.

"But President Obama has already demonstrated he is extraordinarily eager to please Big Labor bosses. That's why a recess appointment of Craig Becker is a strong possibility." 

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Compulsory Unionism Drops Its Mask in Iowa

New Forced-Fee Scheme Directly Attacks State Right to Work Law

For years, the climate for private-sector employees and business owners in Right to Work Iowa has been far superior to that of neighboring forced-unionism Illinois.

For example, from 2003 to 2008, the latest year for which annual U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment data are available at this writing, the number of private sector jobs grew by 6.2% in Iowa, more than double Illinois's 2.7% increase.

Over the same period, inflation-adjusted U.S. Commerce Department data show personal income in Iowa grew by a healthy 11.1%, more than half again as much as it did in Illinois.

Right to Work Iowa has also made it through the recent severe national recession in considerably better shape than forced-unionism Illinois. Preliminary data put Iowa's December 2009 unemployment rate at 6.6%, far below Illinois's 10.8%.

So how are Quad City Area AFL-CIO operative Tracy Kurowski and other union bosses proposing to give Hawkeye State employees a "jolt," as Ms. Kurowski put it in a recent commentary she penned for the pro-Big Labor "Blog for Iowa"? By making

Iowa more like slow-growth, high-unemployment Illinois, of course!

'Forced Union Fees Are The Last Thing' Iowa Employees and Firms Need

Ms. Kurowski and other union bosses are twisting the arms of state legislators in Des Moines to adopt H.F.2420, legislation that would force roughly 18,000 state government employees who have chosen not to join a union to fork over an estimated total of roughly \$5.3 million a year in forced union fees, or be fired.

In her "Blog for Iowa" commentary, Ms. Kurowski characterized this power grab as a "start" towards the union hierarchy's goal of corralling all kinds of front-line public and private employees into unions.

And she freely admitted that Illinois, where roughly 800,000 workers are currently forced to fork over union dues or "agency" fees as a job condition, was Big Labor's role model for Iowa.

Ms. Kurowski quickly brushed aside concerns that Illinois's net private-sector job and personal income growth

are far slower than Iowa's, and that its unemployment rate is much higher. The "sky hasn't fallen," she sneered.

"Tracy Kurowski's screed makes it plain that, despite their sporadic and half-hearted denials, union bosses see H.F.2420 as a major step towards complete destruction of Iowa's popular, 63-year-old Right to Work law," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Ms. Kurowski has also made it plain that Iowa and national union bosses care nothing about the human consequences of their plans. All they care about is increasing their personal and political war chests by making union fees mandatory.

"But forced union fees are the last thing hardworking Iowa employees and firms need."


Big Labor Knows Its Iowa 'Window of Opportunity' Will Likely Close Soon

It's now been more than three years since freshly-elected Iowa Democratic Gov. Chet Culver, after saying nothing in public about the forced-unionism issue during the 2006 campaign, suddenly declared his support for gutting Iowa's Right to Work law.

"Mr. Culver's almost nonstop pandering to Big Labor, perpetuated this winter with a new executive order promoting anti-taxpayer, union-only 'project labor agreements' in public works, is a major reason for his gully-low poll numbers," remarked Mr. Leen.

"So far, stiff opposition from freedom-loving citizens, mobilized by the National Committee and its allies in the state, has denied Mr. Culver the opportunity to sign legislation forcing Iowa employees to bankroll a union in order to work.

"But before Iowa voters can replace Mr. Culver with a pro-Right to Work governor, union bosses seem determined to use every trick in the book to at least get a 'start' on overturning Iowa's ban on forced union dues and fees.

"Knowing their forced-unionism 'window of opportunity' will likely be closed after November's elections, union bosses will fight furiously to ram through H.F.2420 early this year." 



CREDIT: WWW.PBASE.COM

Union-label Iowa Gov. Chet Culver must face the state's voters in the fall, and he's in big political trouble. Union

bosses are consequently desperate to get a forced-union-fee measure to his desk this spring.

'Voters Don't Know Anything About These Issues'

Big Labor Official Lashes Out at Opponents of Union-Only PLAs

Big Labor and its pliant politicians from President Barack Obama on down are facing passionate opposition from ordinary citizens and mounting legal concerns as they strive to foist union-only "project labor agreements," or PLAs, on taxpayer-funded construction work across the country.

Even in union-boss stronghold states like New York and California, independent construction employees and employers and concerned taxpayers are fighting back against government PLAs that rig the public-works bidding process in favor of union boss-controlled contractors and inflate construction costs.

In the Empire State and in neighboring Vermont, citizens are already mobilizing against a nascent deal between the New York Department of Transportation and political appointees at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to impose a PLA on the \$75 million project to replace the Champlain Bridge.

Until 2009, this nearly 2200-footlong structure was the only bridge that connected New York and Vermont by crossing Lake Champlain. But the Champlain Bridge was closed last October due to safety concerns, then destroyed in December after it was determined to be beyond repair.

At this writing, the project to replace the economically important bridge is scheduled to go to bid in April, with work to begin just weeks later.

Employees of recession-wracked New York and Vermont construction firms have been awaiting the commencement of the Champlain Bridge replacement project with bated breath.

Workers Would Be Forced To Contribute to Big Labor-Manipulated Pension Funds

That's why many were deeply distressed to learn last month that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) had secretly commissioned a draft report by an obscure White Plains-based consulting firm that endorses a so-called "PLA" for the project.

Moreover, the draft report had already been sent to the FHWA, now headed by Obama appointee Victor Mendez.



CREDIT: WWW.FREAKYGLOSSIP.COM

Big Labor-controlled New York State and federal bureaucrats are reportedly colluding to impose a union-only PLA

on construction of a \$75 million replacement for the Lake Champlain Bridge.

Most observers believe it is inevitable that the FHWA will give a quick nod to the NYSDOT's PLA plan. After all, President Obama on February 6, 2009, just a couple of weeks after he took office, issued Executive Order 13502, promoting union-only PLAs for federal taxpayer-funded public works.

"Fortunately, the regulations to implement E.O.13502 are not yet in place," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But once they are, to participate in public works using \$25 million or more in federal funds, nonunion companies will have to consent to impose union monopoly bargaining on their employees and hire new workers through discriminatory union hiring halls.

"Independent workers who already have their own retirement funds will nevertheless be forced to contribute to Big Labor-manipulated pension funds.

"Rather than compromise the freedom of their employees and the efficiency of their operations, most independent construction firms will, in all probability, simply refuse to submit bids on large federal projects.

"And sharply reducing the number of bidders will surely jack up taxpayers' bills. The nonpartisan, Boston-based Beacon Hill Institute estimates that construction costs will be inflated by 12% to 18% on every project that uses a PLA as a result of E.O.13502.

"Of course, a union-only PLA on the Champlain Bridge project would have exactly the same unhappy consequences."


Powerful Backlash Seems to Have Surprised Union Bigwigs

Last July, attorneys for the Committee's sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, joined in a federal court case challenging the power of public agencies to systematically impose PLAs on taxpayer-funded construction.

And in New York, many union-free contractors who don't want their employees corralled into an unwanted union say they will support a legal effort to block a Champlain Bridge PLA should the NYSDOT proceed with its plan to impose one.

Meanwhile, all the way across the country in California, strapped taxpaying individuals and businesses are helping drive efforts to prohibit PLAs on public works in county after county.

These efforts have so unnerved southern California AFL-CIO official Evan McLaughlin that late last month he snarled at the San Diego County Board of Supervisors: "Voters don't know anything about these issues."

"Such outbursts tell me that Right to Work supporters and our allies are making real progress in our efforts to stop discriminatory PLAs. We must keep turning up the pressure," concluded Mr. Mix. 

Blanche Lincoln: Unrepentant Union-Boss Ally

Senator Reaffirms Support For Federal Monopoly-Bargaining Mandate

Poll after poll indicates that union-label Democratic U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln faces a tough battle to get reelected in Right to Work Arkansas this November.

And Ms. Lincoln clearly knows she has a problem.

That's why she's now suggesting to independent employees and employers in her home state that, although she has routinely voted according to Big Labor's dictates on key forced-unionism issues during her nearly two decades on Capitol Hill, she is now an "independent" voice on such issues.

Freedom-loving Arkansans shouldn't believe it for a minute.

First of all, even if Ms. Lincoln were consistently opposing compulsory unionism in the current Congress, Arkansas Right to Work supporters would have good reason to doubt she would continue to stand up to the union bosses once she was safely installed for another six-year term.

And the fact is, even in the current Congress, while she is trailing several potential pro-Right to Work general election opponents, Ms. Lincoln continues to support major forced-unionism power grabs whenever she thinks she can get away with it.

Gregg-Kildee Would Pave Way For Dragging All State, Local Employees Into Unions

One major example is Ms. Lincoln's stealth move just before the Senate's Christmas recess last year to sign on as a cosponsor of Big Labor-appeasing New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg's (R) S.1611, the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

The innocent-sounding name of this legislation (also introduced in the U.S. House as H.R.413 by Big Labor Michigan Democrat Congressman Dale Kildee) mocks the reality that it would incite conflict between government agencies and employees and hurt taxpayers.

S.1611/H.R.413 would institute a federal mandate foisting union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) on state and local police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide.

This legislation would rewrite the public-sector labor laws of the vast majority of the 50 states to make them more pro-forced unionism.



CREDIT: WUSA 9 NEWS

Belying her recent claims of "independence," this year Sen. Blanche Lincoln is again trying to help union

In Arkansas and other states that haven't caved in to Big Labor demands for monopoly bargaining, Gregg-Kildee would federally impose it, denying localities the option to refuse to grant a single union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who don't want to join.

And in most states that already authorize public-safety union monopoly bargaining, S.1611/H.R.413 would widen its scope.

Gregg-Kildee would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

It would also constitute a major step towards Big Labor's decades-old goal of enacting a federal law that foists union monopoly bargaining on front-line state and local employees of all types across America.

Mark Mix Presses Sen. Lincoln to Withdraw Cosponsorship of S.1611

"Poll after poll shows the public overwhelmingly agrees that a worker who chooses not to join a union should be free as an individual to bargain for himself or herself," pointed out National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Gregg-Kildee completely rejects that principle. For that reason alone, it



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bosses like Harold Schaitberger seize monopoly-bargaining power over public-safety employees in all 50 states.

lacks popular support.

"Moreover, there is a large and growing body of evidence that public-sector union monopoly bargaining helps drive up wasteful government spending, pouring fuel on the fire for future tax hikes.

"In the current political environment, with federal personal and business taxes already poised to skyrocket over the next few years and cities, towns and counties across America already facing their worst fiscal crisis in decades, popular opposition to schemes like Gregg-Kildee is mounting.

"By mandating public-safety union monopoly bargaining over a range of issues even wider than is currently the case in Big Labor-controlled states like Illinois and Michigan, this power grab could push localities across the country into bankruptcy.

"Does Congress as a whole, and do so-called 'moderate' politicians like Blanche Lincoln, really want to bear the responsibility for such a disastrous outcome?

"If Sen. Lincoln wants at last to make her vaunted 'independence' a reality, rather than just a hollow campaign slogan, the first thing she should do is withdraw her cosponsorship of S.1611."

Mr. Mix urged freedom-loving Arkansans to call Ms. Lincoln's office at 202-224-4843 and personally ask her to repudiate her support for the Gregg-Kildee scheme. 📞

Right to Work Benefits Talled

Continued from page 8

The analysis controlled for each state's tax burden, the share of its adults with college degrees, land area, and several other variables.

Right to Work Law 'Would Have Increased Per Capita Income by an Extra \$2760'

Here again, Dr. Vedder found "a very strong and highly statistically significant . . . positive relationship between" Right to Work laws and economic growth."

He elaborates: Suppose two states both "had per capita income of \$24,000 in 1977."

Real per capita income in the state without Right to Work protections "would have risen to \$36,000 in 2007, compared to \$38,760" in the Right to Work state. Right to Work protections "would have increased per capita income by an extra \$2760 -- or over \$11,000 annually for a family of four."

While alternative models "might offer somewhat different conclusions, . . . based on existing evidence, a strong case can be made" that Right to Work laws "have a positive impact on U.S. living standards."

But despite all the evidence of Right to Work laws' economic benefits, and despite the fact that nearly 80% of Americans who regularly vote support the Right to Work as a matter of principle, passing a state Right to Work law is never easy.

Unions that file federal disclosure forms rake in a total of roughly \$20 billion a year in (mostly forced) dues and fees, government grants, rents, interest, and other revenues. And union bosses deploy a huge share of that money on politics and lobbying.

Freedom-Loving Citizens Must Be Mobilized to Pass More Right to Work Laws

As Dr. Vedder notes, most politicians fear the power of the Big Labor lobby, "but . . . probably also suspect that public opinion is generally supportive" of Right to Work laws.

Many politicians evidently calculate that these factors "are roughly offsetting, so the politically optimal thing to do is nothing: don't rock the boat."

"Though Richard Vedder is an economist, not a political scientist, his


analysis of the way many politicians think is right on target," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's why it takes several years of painstaking mobilization by freedom-loving citizens to put sufficient pressure on state legislators and executives to adopt and sign into law a Right to Work measure banning forced union dues.

"But the vital protections such laws furnish for personal freedom and the

economic dynamism they make possible are always well worth the effort.

"And the Committee and its 2.5 million members and supporters always stand ready to offer our advice and assistance for citizens in any of the 28 current forced-unionism states who are willing to take on the fight to bring about passage of new Right to Work laws.

"Moreover, the Committee also continues to work for passage of national Right to Work legislation repealing all federal labor-law provisions that authorize forced union dues and fees. Effectively, that would make all 50 states Right to Work states." 



Politicians fear the power of the Big Labor lobby, "but . . . probably also suspect that public opinion is

generally supportive" of Right to Work laws. Politicians thus often try to dodge the issue.

Right to Work Laws 'Have a Positive Impact'

Eminent Economist Gauges Benefits of Banning Forced Unionism

A new scholarly article by eminent economist Richard Vedder constitutes an important addition to the already formidable array of evidence that state Right to Work laws increase job opportunities and raise employees' real incomes.

Dr. Vedder, a professor on the faculty of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and the author of more than 100 academic papers published in scholarly journals as well as several books, is a specialist in labor, taxation and education issues.

With fellow Ohio University economist Lowell Galloway, Dr. Vedder is the coauthor of the acclaimed book *Out of Work*, an examination of the ties between unemployment and public policies in 20th Century America.

In 1994, this book was both the recipient of the Sir Anthony Fisher International Memorial Award and a Mencken Award Finalist.

In "Right to Work Laws: Liberty, Prosperity, and Quality of Life," an article appearing in the Winter 2010 edition of *Cato Journal*, Dr. Vedder observes that currently 22 states have on the books Right to Work laws banning the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Massive Migration to Right to Work States an 'Important Untold Story'

An "important untold story," Dr. Vedder continues, "is the rapid growth of population" living in Right to Work states "relative to states refusing to grant workers the right to reject unionization."

In 1970, 28.5% of Americans lived in Right to Work states. By 2008, the "proportion" had risen to nearly 40%, or over 121 million people.

And "the most important reason for the increase in the percentage of the U.S. population" living in Right to Work states has been "a huge migration of persons" from forced-unionism states "to those allowing greater personal liberty with respect to employment."

U.S. Census Bureau estimates indicate that, from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008, a net total of roughly 4.7 million Americans, "on average more than one person every single minute,"



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Dr. Richard Vedder: Union officials "cannot erect Berlin-type walls to prevent people fleeing states where employment contracts

are constrained by law. Consequently, internal in-migration" into Right to Work states "has been astonishing."

moved from a forced-unionism state to a Right to Work state.

Dr. Vedder goes on to summarize a multiple regression analysis he did to determine whether some factor other than the lack of Right to Work protections could possibly account for the massive and continuing out-migration from forced-unionism states.

Analysis Reinforces 'View That People Vote With Their Feet' For Right to Work

"I tried several different models," he reports, "incorporating different sets of explanatory variables (tax, climate, occupational composition of the labor force, unemployment, [and] population density . . .).

"Without exception, in all the estimations, a statistically significant positive relationship . . . was observed

between the presence" of a Right to Work law "and net migration. . . .

"Consider a state with a population of five million in 2000. Other things equal, the model with the best predictive power that we used suggests that about 150,000 more people would move into the state between 2000 and 2008" because of its Right to Work status."

Overall, Dr. Vedder's findings "reinforce the view that people vote with their feet to move to freer labor market environments."

Elsewhere in the article, Dr. Vedder reports that he also did a regression analysis "to relate the rate of growth in real personal per capita personal income from 1977 to 2007 for the 48 contiguous U.S. states to the existence" of Right to Work laws.

See **Benefits Tallied** page 7