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Big Labor Congress vs. State, Local Taxpayers *Monopoly-Bargaining Mandate Would Bust Budgets Across Nation*

Over the course of the past few decades, public servants, especially state and local government employees, have become Big Labor's bread and butter.

By 2009, union officials wielded monopoly-bargaining power over 7.5 million state and local employees, nearly 43% of all such employees nationwide, compared to just 8% of private-sector workers.

Moreover, for many years now, Big Labor featherbedding and counterproductive work rules have sharply increased real taxpayer costs for compensation of state and local government employees.

In fact, from 1998 to 2008 alone, taxpayers' aggregate real costs for compensation of state and local government employees soared at a rate nearly 50% faster than the total real growth of private-sector employee compensation!

And now, incredibly, the Big Labor Congress is poised to sock it to taxpayers again.

This spring, the U.S. House and Senate are on the verge of rubber-stamping a new federal mandate ensuring that public-sector union bosses get monopoly-bargaining privileges over additional hundreds of thousands of state and local public-safety employees.

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

This federal mandate (H.R.413 and S.1611), respectively introduced in the House and Senate by Big Labor Congressman Dale Kildee (D-Mich.) and Big Labor-appeasing Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), goes by an innocent-



CREDIT: ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama's unabashed support for a federal police/fire monopoly-bargaining mandate is music

to the ears of International Association of Firefighters union kingpin Harold Schaitberger (right).

sounding moniker, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

But this label mocks the reality that the legislation would incite conflict between government agencies and employees and hurt taxpayers.

H.R.413/S.1611 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.

In states that haven't caved in to Big Labor demands for monopoly bargaining, Kildee-Gregg 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

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Capitol Hill Showdown Imminent

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monopoly bargaining, H.R.413/S.1611 would widen its scope.

Kildee-Gregg 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.

States With Heaviest Public-Sector Unionization Have Higher Taxes, More Debt

"The record shows that pervasive unionization of government employees is closely associated with higher taxes and more public debt," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Therefore, enactment of federal police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation would almost certainly lead to tax hikes in state after state.

"In 2008, while 40.7% of all government employees, federal, state

and local, nationwide were unionized, public-sector unionization was 60% or more in seven states.

"That year, residents of those Big Labor-controlled states had to fork over, on average, a 22% higher share of their income in state and local taxes than did the residents of states with below-average public-sector unionization.

"Moreover, in Fiscal 2008, eight of the 10 states with the most long-term debt as a share of their personal income had public-sector unionization higher than 50%.

"Meanwhile, every one of the 10 states with the least long-term debt as a share of personal income had public-sector unionization below the national average.

"In five of these least indebted states, public-sector unionization was less than half the national average!

"Federal personal and business taxes are already poised to skyrocket over the next few years. Cities, towns and counties across America are facing their worst fiscal crisis in decades.

"And yet, our out-of-touch Congress seems eager to pass legislation that

would greatly compound the damage. Even in Washington, D.C., this degree of recklessness is unusual."

Big Labor Scheme Expected to Sail Through House Within The Next Few Weeks

Recently, top bosses of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and other public-safety unions that are leading the charge for H.R.413/S.1611 have boasted of their intent to ram H.R.413 through the House during the next few weeks.

And Big Labor's control over the lower chamber is so tight that Right to Work members can only slow down this legislation there.

However, freedom-loving Americans still have a chance of blocking Kildee-Gregg in the Senate.

"This will, without a doubt, be an uphill fight," commented Mr. Mix. "Part of the reason why is that Judd Gregg and a few other Republican senators are colluding with the Democratic congressional leadership and the Obama Administration to make sure Kildee-Gregg gets rubber-stamped.

"Right to Work advocates' only chance of victory is to prevent this bill from coming up for a final Senate vote by mobilizing at least 41 senators to sustain an extended debate for as long as necessary."

To Prevail, Right to Work Will Need to Switch Over a Handful of Senators' Votes

"To prevail in this fight," Mr. Mix continued, "the Committee will almost certainly need to switch over the votes of a handful of senators who habitually vote according to the union bosses' dictates."

Among the top lobbying targets he cited are Virginia Sens. Jim Webb (D) and Mark Warner (D) and North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan (D).

"While Sens. Webb, Warner and Hagan all tend to vote how Big Labor tells them to, they also represent two states that have longstanding laws, with bipartisan support, that explicitly ban all union monopoly bargaining over state and local government employees," Mr. Mix explained.

"If we can convince these three senators and just a few others to support the Right to Work in this one instance, Kildee-Gregg can still be thwarted this year." 📧



CREDIT: AP/CHARLES DHARAPAK

Right to Work members and supporters will throw up as many roadblocks as necessary to slow down H.R.413 in

Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House, and buy time to block this public-sector union power grab in the Senate.

New Web Site Facilitates Member Action

Right to Work Activists Will Now Be Able to Do More, Faster

A new weapon in the war against forced unionism was introduced early last month, as National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix made the Committee's new web site available to Internet users around the world.

The Committee web site -- still accessible at www.nrtwc.org -- now features a new Legislative Action Center (LAC).

Committee members and supporters are already using the LAC not just to track federal and state Right to Work-related legislation, but also to contact state and federal legislators through the site and contact their local media and send letters to the editor and other comments.

Right to Work activists are also using the LAC to get locations and times for town hall meetings with their elected officials.

Complete Information Can Make Right to Work Members Even More Effective

"The LAC is a valuable tool for promotion of the freedom of choice for the individual working man and woman," explained Mr. Mix.

"Until now, the Committee web site has helped build public awareness about the Right to Work issue, and specifically about the damage wrought by federal and state laws that authorize and promote union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues.

"The Committee is now launching the LAC to enable Right to Work



The new Right to Work web site helps supporters respond to fast-moving union legislative power grabs.

supporters to do more, faster when they engage in grass-roots lobbying against forced-unionism laws and legislation."

The LAC allows Right to Work supporters to secure contact information for their state and federal elected officials, view their committee assignments, and write to them in support of or opposition to pending legislation, while remaining on the www.nrtwc.org site all the while.

The Committee's new web site also has enhanced video and blog features, and now offers current issues of the Committee Newsletter in a computer screen reader-friendly format as well as in PDF format.

Additionally, Right to Work supporters may now use the LAC to

sign up to receive e-mail updates on fast-breaking news as well as action alerts concerning state and congressional legislation.

"Keeping our members more completely up-to-date and informed," said Mr. Mix, "will help us generate even more intense pressure on individual politicians when the need arises.

"For years the Committee's two-Virginia Beach-based phone banks have had the capacity to turn a congressman's office upside down in 10 to 15 minutes.

"But the LAC is a very useful additional tool, especially for those times when politicians' phone systems are overloaded.

"Furthermore, while they are writing their messages to their elected officials, the LAC allows Right to Work supporters to have at their fingertips access to detailed information about the legislation they are discussing. Supporters can even easily retrieve the actual text of the legislation."

'This Tool Couldn't Have Been Made Available at A More Opportune Time'

Mr. Mix added that it is providential that the Committee has been able to add the LAC to its web site during a congressional session when the Right to Work is coming under the most ferocious and sustained federal legislative attack it has experienced in decades.

"Since early 2009, Right to Work members have been fighting hard to block so-called 'card check' legislation, federally-mandated union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety employees, and the appointment of radical union lawyers to the powerful National Labor Relations Board," he recalled.

"And those are just some of the high-profile battles.

"With new attacks coming down the legislative pipeline all the time, it's providential that the Committee and its 2.5 million members now have at their disposal the LAC, which allows Right to Work supporters to learn about forced-unionism power grabs and act on what they learn more rapidly than ever before.

"This tool couldn't have been made available at a more opportune time."

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New NLRB Made to Order For Big Labor

'Recess' Appointee: Workers Shouldn't Be Allowed to Reject Unions

On February 9, union lawyer Craig Becker, nominated by President Obama to fill one of three vacancies on the powerful National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), turned out to be too radical even for a number of normally pro-Big Labor U.S. senators.

Because of several union-label senators' defections, union lobbyists and the White House fell eight Senate votes short that day of the 60 they needed to cut off Right to Work debate and bring the Becker nomination up for final consideration.

This vote was a significant victory for National Right to Work Committee members and supporters, who had led the fight against Mr. Becker since his selection was first announced last spring, and their allies.

However, top union bosses were furious that, because of well-mobilized Right to Work opposition, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) had failed to ram through the Becker nomination.

Almost immediately, Richard Trumka, chief of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate, publicly demanded that the President circumvent the Senate and install Craig Becker on the NLRB temporarily through a "recess" appointment.

Other union bigwigs like Andy Stern, czar of the massive Service Employees International Union (SEIU), were also cheerleading for Mr. Becker. For years, Mr. Becker has served as counsel for both the SEIU union and the AFL-CIO.

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

And on Saturday, March 27, President Obama did the bidding of the union hierarchy by recess appointing Mr. Becker, along with the other union lawyer he has nominated to the NLRB, New Yorker Mark Pearce.

"In the past, Presidents have rarely granted recess appointments to nominees who have already come up for consideration in the full Senate, and failed to be approved," noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee

"But President Obama has demonstrated time and again he is



CREDIT: C-SPAN

Mark Mix: Right to Work supporters will do all they can to contain the damage Obama "recess" appointee

Craig Becker does to independent-minded employees from his new post on the National Labor Relations Board.

extraordinarily eager to please Big Labor bosses. Craig Becker and Mark Pearce are fresh examples."

While Mr. Becker and Mr. Pearce will very likely almost always agree on the main issues in NLRB cases, Mr. Becker differs in having a long "paper trail" that made it plain for senators and anyone else with eyes to see just how radical he is.

Three of Four Current Board Members Are Veteran Union Lawyers

"Over the years," said Mr. Mix, "Craig Becker 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."

Incredibly, Craig Becker and Mark Pearce are not the only union lawyers on the current, four-member NLRB.

Wilma Liebman, originally appointed to the Board by union-label President Bill Clinton and elevated to the chairmanship early last year by Barack Obama, is an ex-lawyer for the notorious Teamster union.

"Ms. Liebman, Mr. Becker, and Mr. Pearce are all expected to vote in lockstep to increase Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues powers over the individual employee whenever they see an opportunity," commented Mr. Mix.

"And this alarming pattern will continue at least until the Becker and Pearce 'recess' terms expire in 2011.

"Meanwhile, Right to Work supporters will do everything they can to contain the damage.

"For example, attorneys for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Committee's sister organization, have announced they will ask Mr. Becker to pledge to recuse himself from their clients' cases because of his demonstrable, virulent anti-Right to Work bias.

"If Mr. Becker refuses to recuse himself, then his record of bias could in itself constitute grounds for judicial appeals of all decisions in which he joins." 📌

Organized Labor Bosses 'Own' ObamaCare

Scheme Injurious For Millions of Unionized Workers, Retirees

Last month, the Big Labor Congress gave final approval to, and President Barack Obama signed into law, what is surely the greatest expansion of federal government power over consumers, employees and businesses since last century's Great Depression.

And, even more than Mr. Obama, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), or any other elected official, top Big Labor bosses are responsible for Congress's reconstruction of America's enormous health-care system.

On March 22, the day after the House rubber-stamped both H.R.3590, the version of ObamaCare Mr. Reid had rammed through the Senate early Christmas Eve morning, 2009, and a "fixer" bill (H.R.4872) amending the Senate measure, the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics (CRP) demonstrated how it all happened.

"Supporters of both measures received out-sized support from labor unions," concluded the CRP's Michael Beckel in his legislative wrap-up.

He went on to specify that, since 1989: "Members who voted for both bills received an average of about \$917,500" in reported contributions alone from labor union bosses.

Furthermore, in "the final push for a vote," many union bosses and union

operatives "also displayed their clout through threats to withhold endorsements from lawmakers who failed to back the bill. They also vowed to support primary challenges or third-party bids against incumbents who opposed the bills."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford commented: "Since 1989, Big Labor has contributed a total of \$160 million more, in cash alone, to ObamaCare proponents than to ObamaCare opponents.

"In contrast, health-focused industries gave roughly \$100 million to ObamaCare proponents and roughly \$110 million to opponents -- a difference of just \$10 million.

"And this 16-to-1 edge for pro-ObamaCare politicians doesn't even take into account their even wider advantage in union bosses' hidden, forced dues-funded 'in-kind' contributions. Organized Labor bosses can truly be said to 'own' ObamaCare."

Verizon Retiree, Right to Work Chairman: ObamaCare Is Already Hurting Me

Why did union bigwigs spend so much of their PAC and forced-dues money, and twist so many politicians' arms, to get ObamaCare enacted?

Certainly not because most unionized workers will benefit.

As has been widely reported, under ObamaCare as ultimately enacted, a disproportionately large share of unionized employees will see their premiums jump up, or their benefits cut back, as a result of the law's large new excise tax on so-called "Cadillac" health insurance plans.

And unionized firms such as AT&T, Verizon and Caterpillar have already signaled they will very likely drop their prescription-drug coverage for retirees once ObamaCare slashes the tax incentive federal policy has offered them up to now to retain it.

Retirees from such companies will then have no choice but to apply for Medicare drug benefits, which are meager compared to those the retirees currently receive, but far more expensive for taxpayers who will carry the whole freight.

Right to Work Chairman and Verizon retiree Chuck Serio commented: "It appears that the Communications Workers of America union hierarchy to which I paid thousands of dollars in dues and compulsory fees during my 37 years has been instrumental in my coming loss of drug coverage by my former employer.

"Thanks a lot, CWA bosses."

Union Bosses Will Rake In Bailout Money

In reality, union bosses supported ObamaCare both because of their ideological commitment to bigger and bigger government, and because it remained, in all its various incarnations, full of special-interest handouts to Organized Labor.

For example, one little-discussed provision in the ObamaCare law would either exacerbate the horrendous national debt or foist an additional burden on taxpayers by furnishing \$10 billion in bailout money for mismanaged union health-benefit funds.

"Union bosses will rake in billions and billions of dollars in bailouts thanks to ObamaCare, but most forced dues-paying workers will get hurt," said Mr. Stafford. "It's a horrifying, but instructive illustration of the evils of compulsory unionism." 



CREDIT: WWW.HEALTHCAREVOICES.ORG

For several months, top union bosses feigned opposition to ObamaCare provisions that directly hurt unionized

workers. But the forced-dues machine ultimately lobbied hard to pass the entire power grab.

Right to Work Revving Up Survey 2010

Pro-Forced Unionism Federal Candidates Will Have Nowhere to Hide

Federal reports show that, in 2007 and 2008, Big Labor PACs directly contributed \$73 million to federal candidates. And Big Labor-operated Section 527 groups spent an additional \$57 million on an array of get-out-the-vote efforts for pro-forced unionism candidates.

These two types of political spending officially acknowledged by union bosses add up to \$130 million in the 2007-2008 campaign cycle. That's no mean sum.

But Big Labor's officially acknowledged campaign expenditures represent only the tip of the iceberg of union electioneering, as union insiders like Jon Tasini, a former union official who now heads the New York-based Labor Research Association, have acknowledged again and again.

In a February 20, 2005 op-ed for the Los Angeles *Times*, Mr. Tasini reported that several "union political experts" had admitted to him that "unions spend seven to 10 times what they give candidates and [campaign organizations] on internal political mobilization."

"Following Jon Tasini's formula, in the 2007-2008 campaign cycle, Organized Labor spent between \$900 million and \$1.3 billion, mostly forced-dues money, on 'internal political mobilization,'" noted Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Candidate Survey Is 'One of the Committee's Most Effective Tools'

"Forced-dues money pays for political phone banks, propaganda mailings, and the salaries and benefits for tens of thousands of campaign 'volunteers,'" Mr. Leen continued.

"And the *Wall Street Journal* reported last month that the AFL-CIO hierarchy 'plans to roll out its biggest political campaign ever' in 2010."

To meet union bigwigs' challenge, the National Right to Work Committee has launched its federal candidate Survey 2010.

As longtime Committee members know, the federal candidate survey asks congressional candidates to commit themselves to oppose forced unionism consistently and support national Right to Work legislation if elected.



CREDIT: A LIBERAL'S HIT LIST

Arlen Specter (seen here cozying up to Vice President Joe Biden) was a Republican for decades, and now he's a

Democrat. But throughout his political life he's never stopped pandering to union bigwigs and forced unionism.

The survey is "one of the Committee's most effective tools," observed Mr. Leen.

"Senate and House candidates are given several chances to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of Right to Work," Mr. Leen explained.

"And millions of Right to Work supporters are mobilized to lobby candidates to respond to their Right to Work surveys.

"The success of the survey program is key for the Committee's future ability to defeat Big Labor power grabs in Congress and, ultimately, pass a national Right to Work law."

Survey Will Target Critical Senate and House Contests

The Survey 2010 will target critical Senate races in a number of states, including Pennsylvania and Arkansas, where Big Labor Democrat Sens. Arlen Specter and Blanche Lincoln, respectively, are both at significant risk of losing their seats.

The survey will encourage Sens. Specter and Lincoln to repudiate unequivocally their records of support for compulsory unionism and call upon their challengers to pledge 100% support for Right to Work if elected.

Other Senate target states include New Hampshire, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, North Dakota, Colorado and Nevada.

In the House, the Survey 2010 is targeting dozens of "open seat" races and races in which potentially vulnerable Big Labor allies are seeking reelection.

"Before Election Day, the citizens these politicians are vying to represent in Congress have a right to know where they stand on Right to Work," noted Mr. Leen.

"Regardless of whether they are political newcomers or have already cast thousands of recorded votes, Big Labor candidates will have nowhere to hide this year. Candidates in both major parties will feel intense heat to support Right to Work."

Right to Work Vice President Optimistic Members' Support Will Continue to Intensify

"I am confident that Committee members' intensifying support for our survey program will counterbalance the union bosses' billion-dollar scheme and, as a result, the Right to Work cause will enjoy many important victories throughout the 2010 campaigns," Mr. Leen continued.

He urged members across the U.S. to be on the lookout for their Survey 2010 mailings, and to send their postcards and letters to their candidates promptly once the mailings arrive. 

Right to Work Spurs Job Growth

Continued from page 8

current Right to Work states would share the benefits as their major out-of-state suppliers and customers were freed from the burden of compulsory unionism.

"Today, there would be an additional 4.42 million U.S. private-sector jobs if private-sector employment nationally had increased exactly as much as it did in Right to Work states over the past decade.

"That gives you some idea of the extent to which American employees and businesses would benefit over the next 10 years if Congress and the President stood up to Big Labor and enacted a national Right to Work law now."

President, Congress and Governors Remain Beholden To Union Special Interests

Unfortunately, despite nationwide unemployment that hovers near 10% and the widespread economic hardship resulting from most businesses' lingering inability to hire more workers profitably even as the country reemerges from the 2008-2009 recession, Washington, D.C., keeps moving in the wrong direction.

"In January 2009, when it was already clear the economy and the job market were in dire straits, Sen. Jim DeMint [R-S.C.], working hand-in-hand with the Right to Work Committee, secured a Senate floor roll call on a forced-dues

repeal amendment," recalled Mr. Mix.

"But a majority of senators, including 14 who are seeking reelection or full terms this year, kowtowed to Big Labor and voted for federally-imposed compulsory union dues.

"And a majority of senators and House members and President Obama are all on record in favor of S.560/H.R.1409, the cynically mislabeled 'Employee Free Choice Act,' which would enable union bosses to grab forced-dues power over millions of additional private-sector workers.

"This year, several governors are also ignoring the economic facts and endorsing schemes to expand Big Labor's forced-dues privileges.

"For example, Big Labor Iowa Gov. Chet Culver [D] is backing H.F.2420, legislation that would gut the Hawkeye State's Right to Work law, even though Iowa's long-term economic growth is far superior to that of Midwestern forced-unionism states like Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan."

Politicians May Pay a Steep Price This Year For Backing Forced Unionism

In the recent past, union-label politicians have sometimes gotten away with supporting anti-growth labor



CREDIT: JIM GREENHILL

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver supports Big Labor efforts to gut his state's economy-saving Right to Work law.

policies, because most voters believed the economy was performing well enough, and didn't see a pressing need for improvement.

However, in the harsh economic climate of 2010, citizens are unlikely to be so tolerant of federal and state politicians who pander to Big Labor.

"In their federal and state candidate Survey 2010 programs, the National Right to Work Committee and allied regional and state organizations have already begun mobilizing millions of citizens to contact their politicians regarding their compulsory-unionism records," said Mr. Mix.

"It's likely politicians will pay a steep price this year for backing compulsory unionism.

"But there's still time for many politicians who up to now have been Right to Work opponents to make amends with freedom-loving citizens by pledging publicly to oppose forced unionism 100% of the time in the future.

"Federal and state politicians who are running for election or reelection this year can accomplish this objective by completing, signing and returning their 2010 Right to Work candidate surveys.

"Long experience shows that election time is the best time for Right to Work advocates to change Big Labor-appealing politicians' minds about the forced-unionism issue. I urge Right to Work members and supporters everywhere to participate in the Survey 2010 program."

For more information about Right to Work's Survey 2010, see page six. 



CREDIT: GARY VARVEL/INDIANAPOLIS STAR

President Obama and likeminded politicians in Congress complain about ongoing private-sector job losses, but

continue to promote forced-unionism policies that make it impossible for many businesses to hire profitably.

'Decade of Decline' in Private-Sector Jobs

Forced-Unionism State Employment Down by 1.9 Million Since 1999

Recently, millions of Americans have been dismayed by reports, based on official U.S. Labor Department Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, that from 1999 through 2009 our country endured a "lost decade" in private-sector employment.

In this context, the term "lost decade" refers to annual BLS statistics showing that in 2009 there were 107.95 million private-sector jobs nationwide, roughly 370,000 fewer than in 1999, when there were 108.32 million.

This marks the first time since the Great Depression that an entire decade has gone by with negative net growth in private-sector employment across the U.S.

However, some of the 50 states have fared far better than others over the past 10 years. And a review of how each state's job market performed suggests that the U.S. Congress could dramatically improve America's employment prospects for the next decade by adopting one simple change in federal labor policy.

Private-Sector Employment in Right to Work States up by 1.5 Million Since 1999

Current federal labor law authorizes and promotes the payment of compulsory union dues and fees as a condition of getting or keeping a job.

Under pro-forced unionism provisions in the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the 1951 amendments to the Railway Labor Act (RLA), an estimated 6.6 million private-sector employees must pay dues or fees to their Big Labor monopoly-bargaining agent, or face termination from their jobs.

At the same time, thanks to many years of vigilant efforts by freedom-loving Americans, federal labor law continues explicitly to recognize states' option to protect employees from forced union dues and fees by adopting Right to Work laws.

Currently, 22 states have Right to Work laws on the books prohibiting the firing of employees simply for exercising their right to refuse to join or bankroll an unwanted union.

A huge majority of the 22 Right to Work states actually experienced net gains in private-sector employment from 1999 through 2009. Overall, private-sector employment in Right to Work states is up by roughly 1.5 million since 1999.

Gainers and Losers in Private-Sector Job Growth, 1999-2009

Biggest Job Gainers

Texas*	+866.0
Florida*	+291.6
Arizona*	+194.8
Virginia*	+138.4
Nevada*	+124.5

Worst Job Losers

Michigan	-687.6
Ohio	-508.2
Illinois	-332.7
Indiana	-225.3
California	-170.4

States are ranked according to absolute, not percentage, job gains and losses. Gains and losses are expressed in thousands. Right to Work states are asterisked.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Labor Department.

The five states enjoying the biggest private-sector employment gains over the past decade all have Right to

Work laws. But not one of the five states enduring the worst job losses has such a law.

Meanwhile, the 28 forced-unionism states collectively endured a "lost decade" in employment growth far more bleak than that of the nation as a whole. In these states, private-sector employment is down by 1.9 million since 1999.

All five of the states enjoying the biggest net absolute increases in private-sector jobs since 1999 have Right to Work laws on the books. Not one of the five states experiencing the worst private-sector job losses has such a law. (See the table above for details.)

"Leading labor economists such as Dr. Richard Vedder of Ohio University have shown repeatedly that forced unionism hinders employment growth," noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Big Labor's counterproductive work rules and fomentation of the 'hate-the-boss' mentality lead to less employment growth or, very frequently, employment losses in the unionized businesses themselves.

"On top of that, union bosses funnel a huge chunk of the forced dues and fees they collect with federal labor law's abetment into efforts to elect and

reelect state and local, as well as federal, Big Labor politicians who support higher taxes and more red-tape regulation of businesses."

'Actions of Forced Dues-Funded Politicians . . . Result in Less Job Growth'

"The actions of forced dues-funded politicians thus result in less job growth, period. And, of course, union-label politicians do the most damage in the states where union bosses rake in the most forced-dues money," Mr. Mix added.

"Moreover, in today's globalized economy, when Big Labor militancy squashes job-creating business investment in a state, some investment is likely to go overseas. Then no American workers end up getting the jobs.

"But if Congress repealed all the forced-dues provisions in the NLRA and RLA, this massive impediment to employment growth nationwide would immediately be lifted.

"Forced-dues repeal would spur job growth in all 50 states. Businesses based in

See Job Growth page 7