



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Right to Work to Capitol Hill: 'Keep Your Promises' *Politicians Pledging to Back Right to Work Take Charge of House*

Thanks in significant part to the efforts of National Right to Work Committee members across the country, starting this month the U.S. House of Representatives will be led by a speaker and a majority leader who have pledged full support for Americans' Right to Work without being forced to join or pay dues to a union.

Now Committee members' job is to make sure Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.), and other members of Congress turn their pro-Right to Work promises into action.

### **John Boehner, Eric Cantor Owe Leadership Posts to Worker-Freedom Advocates**

Mr. Boehner and Mr. Cantor enjoy their top leadership positions in the House in part due to pro-Right to Work Americans' support for congressional candidates nationwide who had pledged to oppose compulsory unionism.

Millions of pro-Right to Work Americans mobilized against candidates who supported compulsory unionism, or tried to hide their position on freedom in the workplace. These Americans expect Mr. Boehner and Mr. Cantor to lay the foundation for a new federal labor policy respecting each employee's ability to decide for himself or herself whether or not to join or financially support a union, declared Committee President Mark Mix.

"Poll after poll shows nearly four out of five Americans who regularly vote support the Right to Work," explained Mr. Mix.

"When these citizens helped John Boehner and Eric Cantor become the new House leaders, they sent an



CREDIT: WELBORNFREEDOMWATCH.ORG  
INSET: WASHINGTONPOST.COM

**Nearly 70% of the newly-elected House members have joined incoming Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio, inset) in**

**promising full support for Right to Work, including repeal of federally imposed forced union dues.**

unmistakable message to Capitol Hill -- roll back Organized Labor's compulsory-unionism privileges."

In the 2010 elections, voters firmly rejected major Big Labor power grabs such as the "card check" forced-unionism bill, which sailed through the House as recently as 2007 and seemed close to becoming law in early 2009, after Barack Obama became the 44th U.S. President.

### **Momentum Swings Toward Right to Work**

A full-fledged Committee effort to get federal candidates on the record against the "card check" bill, or "Employee Free Choice Act," as proponents cynically mislabeled it, surpassed expectations in mobilizing citizens and increasing the number of Right to Work supporters in Congress.

To activate Right to Work supporters, the Committee distributed a record-smashing total of nearly 8.4 million federal candidate Survey 2010 "information packets" through the U.S. Postal Service last year. Above and beyond that, the 2010 program had a massive Internet component, including nearly half a million e-mails transmitted in October alone. All this plus radio, TV, and newspaper advertising.

Lobbying by Committee members persuaded hundreds of House and Senate candidates to take a pro-Right to Work position, which in turn helped many get elected. That's not surprising, given the Right to Work principle's overwhelming public support.

"The political momentum is now against compulsory unionism," commented Mr. Mix.

*See Play Offense page 2*

# Right to Work to Play Offense

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"That means in this Congress the Committee actually has a chance, if members keep up the pressure, to pick up enough votes from the 'mushy middle' to push pro-Right to Work legislation through the House."

## Committee Pushes For Floor Votes

"Instead of just fending off repeated Big Labor attempts to wipe out the meager protections for workers' freedom as individuals in current federal labor law, Right to Work advocates are ready to go on the offensive in Congress," Mr. Mix continued.

"This year, it won't be enough for self-avowed Right to Work allies on Capitol Hill to oppose union-boss legislation. Pro-Right to Work Americans want the politicians they supported to help them regain the freedoms Congress has previously abrogated."

According to Mr. Mix, Committee supporters will know the new House leaders are truly committed to fulfilling the pledges they, along with many other House candidates, made if they ensure hearings and floor votes on legislation such as:

**The National Right to Work Act**, which would restore millions of employees' freedom to hold a job without being forced to pay union dues by repealing compulsory-unionism authorizations in federal law. (For more information, see page four.)

**The Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees (RAISE) Act**, which would reform federal labor law by narrowing the scope of union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges. Specifically, the RAISE Act would allow unionized employers to pay individual employees more than a union contract calls for without having to get union bosses' permission first.

## Mr. Boehner Will Need To Hear From Right to Work Supporters

While freedom-loving Americans are hopeful that Speaker Boehner will make good on his 2010 campaign pledges to defend the Right to Work, history indicates pressure from Committee members may well be necessary to keep him on the correct course.

One notable example Mr. Mix recalled was then-Minority Leader Boehner's decision in the summer of 2007 to give Big Labor Democrats a de facto free pass on legislation federalizing government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges over state and local public-safety officers.

"When union lobbyists rammed the so-called 'Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation' Act through the House in July 2007, the GOP House leadership team failed even to send out an e-mail urging caucus members to oppose the scheme until an hour before the floor vote," Mr. Mix pointed out.

"Since the House was in session when the last-minute e-mail was finally transmitted, many of Mr. Boehner's caucus members likely did not even know their leaders were opposed to the public-safety union power grab until after it had already been rubber-stamped by the chamber.

"Fortunately, thanks to Committee members' determined efforts, this destructive legislation never became law. [See page eight for more information.] Nevertheless, this incident reminds us that Right to Work mobilization is always necessary,

regardless of who holds the congressional reins.

"That's why we will need to watch closely to see if Speaker Boehner allows the Right to Work Bill and the RAISE Act to get fair consideration. I'm confident Committee members will be willing and able to let Mr. Boehner know they want action on these bills."

## Tough Battles Ahead For Right to Work Committee And Its Members

The substantial Right to Work gains in the 2010 elections are encouraging, but freedom-loving citizens must keep their eyes wide open, Mr. Mix cautioned.

"Previous U.S. House speakers like Newt Gingrich [R-Ga.] and Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] also made campaign pledges to defend the Right to Work, but avoided confrontations with Big Labor once Congress was in session," he noted.

"However, despite all the pitfalls ahead, if Committee members and supporters remain mobilized, the 112th Congress could be a historic turning point in favor of Right to Work."

Mr. Mix urged Committee members to call their U.S. representatives at 202-225-3121 and urge them to support pro-Right to Work legislation every chance they get. Just ask for your representative by name. 📞



CREDIT: ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Former Speakers Newt Gingrich (R-Ga., left) and Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) both made campaign pledges to support

roll-call votes on forced-dues repeal, but blocked action on such legislation when Congress was in session.

# Right to Work's Electoral Clout Rising

## *Ongoing Shift in U.S. Economic Base Has Political Implications*

For many years, states that have Right to Work laws protecting employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union have benefited from private-sector job and personal income growth that are, in the aggregate, well above the national average.

Conversely, states that do not protect employees from forced unionism have collectively endured sub-par growth.

At the turn of every decade, the U.S. Census Bureau tacitly confirms that America's economic base is shifting from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states when it reapportions our nationwide political map.

Such was the case again last month.

On December 21, the Census Bureau announced that, after the 2012 elections, Right to Work Texas will gain four U.S. House seats, Right to Work Florida will add two, and five other Right to Work states -- Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina and Utah -- will pick up one seat apiece.

### **Millions of Workers 'Vote With Their Feet' For Right to Work**

Starting at the beginning of 2012, Right to Work states will hold 176 out of 435 House seats, compared to the 167 they hold at present, and the 133 they held in 1980, when Ronald Reagan was first elected President.

When it comes to the Electoral College, by which Presidents are officially chosen under the U.S. Constitution, just 162 electoral votes of the 270 needed to become President came from Right to Work states in 1968, the year of Richard Nixon's first successful White House bid.

In the 2000 showdown between George W. Bush and Al Gore, Right to Work states cast 195 electoral votes. By 2012, when President Obama next faces the voters, the Right to Work share will rise to 220.

Why are Right to Work states growing so much more rapidly? Census Bureau data indicate foreign immigration is not much of a factor, since it contributes roughly equally to the population growth of Right to Work and forced-unionism states overall.



CREDIT: BURDICK/EIGHTWIKISPACES.COM

**When Ronald Reagan was first elected, just 173 electoral votes of the 270 needed to become President came**



CREDIT: MAJOR/DOJO.COM

**from Right to Work states. By the time Barack Obama again faces the voters, the number will be 220.**

The key reason Right to Work states are growing more rapidly is that a net total of roughly five million people moved from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states over the course of the past decade.

Out-migrants from forced-unionism states disproportionately consist of young adults, who are typically motivated by a desire to advance their careers, rather than climate and other lifestyle considerations.

From 1998 to 2008, Right to Work states' total population aged 25-34 grew by a healthy 16.0%, even as forced-unionism states' contingent of young adults in that age bracket fell by 0.6%!

### **Capitol Hill Denizens Should Recognize Political Landscape Has Changed**

And most of the huge net out-migration from forced-unionism states occurred during periods of low national unemployment. During such times, employees have been lured to Right to Work states not merely because jobs are available, but because they offer better opportunities and wages and salaries that are higher when regional differences in living costs and taxes are taken into account.

"It's in politicians' best interest to pay heed not just to the congressional reapportionment itself, but also to the economic factors that shaped it,"

commented National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"If millions of employees and their family members are ready to uproot their lives to find greener pastures in a Right to Work state, millions more will vote to oust politicians who perpetuate federally-imposed forced unionism," noted Mr. Leen.

"And as the share of Americans who know about Right to Work laws from personal experience continues to grow, the political price paid by congressmen and senators will become steeper yet."

Mr. Leen called on incoming House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to heed the message of the congressional reapportionment.

"By allowing a recorded floor vote on legislation repealing federally-imposed forced union dues and fees in the new Congress, Mr. Boehner can help ensure that American voters who oppose forced unionism will have the clear choice they deserve in 2012," said Mr. Leen.

"For his part, Mr. McConnell should lend his full support to efforts to secure a Senate floor vote on forced-dues repeal by offering it as an amendment to other related legislation. With the minority leader on their side, Senate Right to Work allies can get around Big Labor Democrat politicians' roadblocks." 🗳️

# Momentum Builds For National Right to Work Act

## *Forced-Dues Clauses in Federal Labor Statutes Ripe For Repeal*

There appears to be light at the end of the forced-unionism tunnel for America's workers.

In last year's elections, disgusted voters repudiated the Big Labor agenda. Now Right to Work advocates are calling on the incoming Republican U.S. House leadership to allow hearings and a vote on national Right to Work legislation some time during the 2011-2012 Congress.

Although Right to Work measures have repeatedly been introduced over the years, House leaders in both parties have thwarted efforts to hold roll-call votes on legislation striking out the provisions in federal law that force millions of workers from coast to coast to pay union dues just to keep their jobs.

"Naturally, Big Labor House Democrats don't want to cast public votes to force American workers to continue to subsidize their campaigns with their union dues and fees," observed Greg Mourad, legislative director for the National Right to Work Committee.

"What's really strange is that, in the past, GOP speakers have been willing to let union-label Democrat politicians off the hook. But Right to Work supporters are already mobilizing to bring about a different outcome in the 112th Congress."

### **Forced Dues Enshrined In Federal Labor Law**

The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which Congress first adopted in 1935 and has since only modified, not fundamentally changed, actually contains specific language protecting employee rights to join or refrain from joining a union.

But it's just a cruel joke. Why? Congress gutted its pious proclamations of worker freedom with "exceptions" such as the one tacked on to NLRA Section 7. Section 7's conclusion has trampled workers' freedom for three-quarters of a century, and is one of the most cynical exercises in legislative deception on record.

Employees, Congress says, shall have full freedom to refrain from joining (or financially supporting) a union, except "to the extent that such right may be affected by an agreement requiring union membership as a condition of employment . . . ."

Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, and shall also have the right to refrain from any or all such activities ~~except to the extent that such right may be affected by an agreement requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment as authorized in section 8(a)(3).~~

**A national Right to Work law would remove all forced-union-dues provisions from federal labor statutes.**

"Simply by repealing this and a handful of other exemptions in the NLRA and the Railway Labor Act [RLA], Congress can reinstate a fundamental freedom for workers across the entire country," said Mr. Mourad.

Over the past 75 years, federally-imposed compulsory unionism has been granted ample opportunity to prove itself as a viable means of governing labor-management relations. The results of the experiment are in, and compulsory unionism has proven a dismal failure.

Time and again, in industry after industry, compulsory unionism has spawned productivity-killing Big Labor work rules and workplace strife. These in turn have resulted in fewer jobs and less real income growth for employees.

### **Restoring Right to Work Would Help Workers, Employers**

"The experience of the 22 states that already circumvent the NLRA by banning forced union dues and fees indicates strongly that national Right to Work legislation will benefit employees economically, in addition to protecting their liberty," said Mr. Mourad.

"But protecting employees' liberty, including but not reserved to their political free speech, is Right to Work laws' primary aim."

Forced-dues repeal would ensure workers have a practicable right not to bankroll the gigantic union political machine, which is estimated to have pumped more than a billion dollars in reported and unreported contributions into the 2010 congressional elections.

### **Federal Right To Work Law Key For Stopping Forced-Dues Politicking**

The Supreme Court's 1988 *Beck* decision, argued and won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys, bans the collection and use of objecting workers' forced union dues and fees for lobbying and politics.

But union officials have largely evaded *Beck* by making it extraordinarily difficult for forced dues-paying employees to exercise their rights under the ruling.

"It's becoming increasingly clear that the only permanent solution to forced-dues political corruption is legislation that completely bans forced unionism," said Mr. Mourad.

"Under a national Right to Work law, employees could with far less difficulty exercise their legal and moral right to refuse to subsidize union chieftains' politics.

"But the only way we'll get even a House hearing on a national Right to Work measure may be for Right to Work members to make so much noise that the politicians bring it up just to keep peace and quiet."

Mr. Mourad and other Committee legislative staff are already laying the groundwork for federal forced-dues repeal by holding discussions with key members of Congress.

In addition to pressing for hearings and a floor vote in the House, the Committee is also working with Senate allies on a strategy to secure a floor vote in the Big Labor Democrat-controlled upper chamber by bringing it up as an amendment to related legislation.

Committee members are urged to join the effort by contacting their representatives and senators, and asking them to sign on as cosponsors of national Right to Work legislation as soon as it is introduced. They can be contacted by calling (202)224-3121 or (202)225-3121, Congress's switchboard. 📞

# Big Labor Taking 'Silver' Out of 'Silver State'

## Monopoly-Bargaining Repeal Would Safeguard Nevada Taxpayers

This winter, as state legislatures across the country prepare to go into session, many elected officials are looking for a practical way to get skyrocketing tax expenditures for compensation of state and local government employees under control.

For many years now, Big Labor featherbedding and counterproductive work rules have been key factors in causing government payrolls to spiral at an alarming rate.

In fact, according to inflation-adjusted U.S. Commerce Department data, taxpayers' aggregate real costs for compensation of state and local government employees soared by almost 30% between 1998 and 2008 -- an increase more than 50% greater than the total real growth of private-employee compensation.

In 2009, even as the nation's economy endured a severe recession, state and local employee real compensation rose by 2.6%. Meanwhile, businesses whose revenues were plummeting had no choice but to cut back real compensation for private-sector employees by 4.3%.

### Right to Work States Haven't Been Immune From Government Union Virus

And last fall, American voters expressed their alarm at this trend by ousting hundreds of government union boss-friendly legislators in state after state and replacing them with candidates pledging to revoke union

monopoly-bargaining policies that favor government employment growth over business job growth.

Grossly bloated public payrolls haven't been confined to notorious forced-unionism stronghold states like New York, Illinois and California. Even a number of states with Right to Work laws prohibiting forced union dues are suffering from somewhat less virulent strains of the same malady.

Right to Work Nevada is a case in point. Unlike neighboring forced-unionism California, Nevada has had strong private-sector job growth over the past decade (+14.4% from 1999-2009, vs. -1.4% for the Golden State).

Both states have been hit hard by the recent recession. But Nevada's Right to Work law and its generally more job-friendly tax and regulatory climate can potentially help it recover smartly over the next couple of years -- if policymakers succeed in slowing the growth of government payroll expenditures.

A big part of Nevada's challenge stems from the fact that, unlike many other Right to Work states like Utah, Texas, North Carolina and Virginia, the Silver State has a monopoly-bargaining statute.

Nevada labor law denies school boards and other local elected officials the option to refuse to recognize government union bosses as public employees' monopoly-bargaining agents. Consequently, it is extraordinarily difficult for local officeholders to reform Big Labor-backed work rules and other personnel policies



**Mark Mix: Big Government is Big Labor's bread and butter in Nevada and many other states.**

that render the costs for public services far higher than they need be.

Largely as a result of Nevada's monopoly-bargaining law, many of the state's local governments have almost 85% of their revenues tied up in compensation costs, according to Stacy Woodbury, assistant chief of staff of outgoing Gov. Jim Gibbons (R).

### Genuine Reform Won't Come Without a Bitter Fight

Having recognized that unwarranted increases in government payrolls are undermining Nevada's ability to maintain vital services while keeping per capita state and local taxes at the national average (in dollar terms), Mr. Gibbons is now calling for repeal of mandatory monopoly bargaining.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"Today in Nevada, like in many other states, Big Government has become Big Labor's bread and butter. In this environment, laws and other policies handing union bosses monopoly power to negotiate with government employers over employee pay, benefits, and work rules result in catastrophic outcomes for taxpayers.

"Incoming Gov. Brian Sandoval [R] and Nevada legislators will have to fight Big Labor tooth and nail to repeal the monopoly-bargaining law. But that fight is absolutely necessary to keep the state safe for taxpayers." 📣

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# Membership Ballot Protects Your Free Speech

## *Your Signature May Stop the FEC From Trampling on Your Rights*

This month the National Right to Work Committee is providing supporters across the country with a much-needed opportunity to protect themselves, one by one, from Big Labor-friendly bureaucrats at the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

Given FEC bureaucrats' long track record of bullying pro-Right to Work Americans who try to exercise their First Amendment rights, this is an opportunity you can't afford to pass up.

Over the years, FEC lawyers have repeatedly buried Right to Work officers under mountains of harassing subpoenas about the Committee's survey program, which informs members which U.S. senators and congressmen support Right to Work -- and which ones don't.

### **FEC's Biased Definitions Of 'Member' Have Been Rejected by Courts**

Starting more than a quarter-century ago, the FEC has tried to concoct rules that disqualify some or even all Right to Work members from "true" membership status.

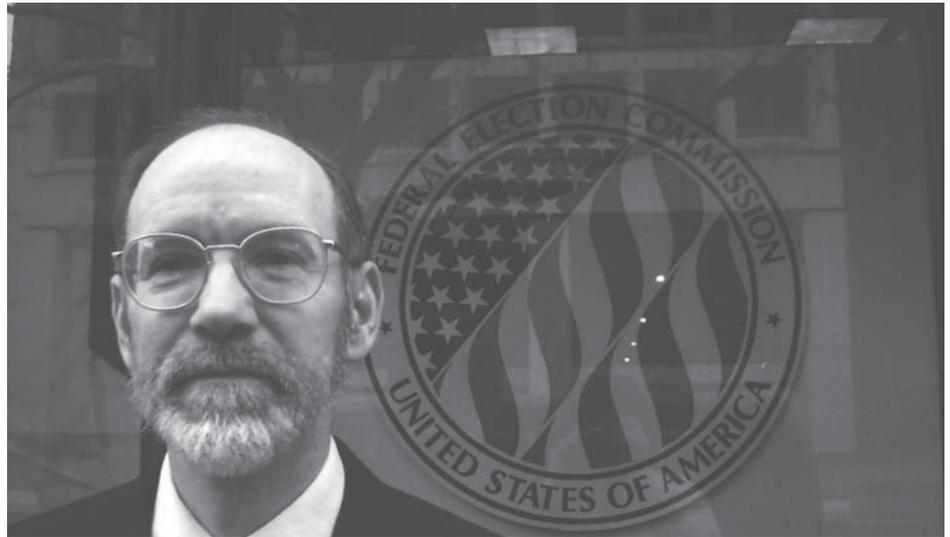
Many members would thus be denied a voice in the legislative process.

Fortunately, Right to Work attorneys and attorneys representing other citizens' groups have succeeded time and time again in getting the FEC's biased definitions of "member" and "membership organization" struck down in court.

But as a safeguard, the Committee has long encouraged members to certify each year that they still consider themselves to be members and wish to retain the freedom to participate fully in the Committee's federal lobbying activities.

Of course, Committee supporters' signed membership ballots cannot prevent every kind of FEC harassment -- such as the sweeping demand for Committee documents made by FEC lawyers a few years ago in connection with the Committee's successful efforts to overturn key anti-free speech provisions in the so-called "Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002."

(Until the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated this law's tight restrictions on the ability of the Committee and other grass-roots groups to expose anti-



**Right to Work corporate counsel Rich Clair has repeatedly had to go to FEC headquarters to try to dissuade FEC**

**bureaucrats from denying to Committee members "true" membership status under federal campaign law.**

Right to Work politicians' records through TV and radio ads, it steepened the electoral playing field's tilt in favor of Big Labor.)

However, your signed and returned ballot will make it almost impossible for the FEC to declare that you have no associational free-speech rights.

To make it easy for Right to Work supporters to certify their Committee membership, Committee President Mark Mix, working with independent attorney Joseph Sadighian, recently sent out letters including membership ballots and pre-posted reply envelopes all around the country.

### **Mark Mix Urges Members To Return Ballots Promptly**

"The Committee is fighting for our freedom to ask all members -- including new members who have not yet had an opportunity to fill out a membership ballot -- to participate in our efforts to get federal candidates to pledge to support Right to Work," said Mr. Mix.

"But signing and returning a membership ballot is the quickest and easiest way for each individual Right to Work member to protect his or her rights.

"If you don't want the FEC ever to tell you that you have no right to be informed where your presidential and U.S. Senate and House candidates stand on Right to Work or to lobby

them to change their position when appropriate, then the smartest thing you can do this month is sign and return your ballot to the Committee.

"Please verify that you got your letter and ballot in the mail. And then try to return your ballot immediately, so you can't possibly forget."

### **Letters Also Seek Members' Input Regarding Committee Legislative Objectives**

Mr. Mix's letters also include surveys allowing members to offer their opinions on how much of the Committee's resources should be devoted to federal and state lobbying programs over the coming year.

"Many members care most of all about our efforts to secure U.S. House and Senate votes on a national Right to Work law this year," said Mr. Mix. (For details about the Right to Work measure, see page four.)

"But other members want us to focus on passing new state Right to Work laws and protecting existing ones. These are also very important battles.

"We need a wide variety of members' input and their ever-more generous financial support in order to combat effectively the Big Labor political machine, which is sure to spend a record amount of forced-dues cash on federal politics in 2011 and 2012." 

# Historic Right to Work Victory

Continued from page 8

Kildee (D-Mich.) introduced companion legislation as H.R.413.

In all its guises, the police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation was a budget-busting power grab. In an astute editorial last June, the *Washington Post* summed up why this scheme was so dangerous:

"What this bill would do is impose a permanent, one-size-fits-all federal solution in an area -- public-sector labor relations -- that has traditionally been left to the states, and where state flexibility is probably more necessary than ever.

". . . The bill further empowers an already strong lobby . . ."

## Harry Reid Nearly Succeeded Because of GOP Collaborators

Of course, Mr. Reid wasn't troubled by the intense damage S.3194 and S.3991 would do to taxpayers or by how they would ravage state sovereignty.

The bottom line for him was that this legislation would empower and enrich union officials who are one the Democratic Party's "most important constituencies," as the editors of the New York-based biweekly *National Review* put it.

However, Democratic politicians, despite controlling the White House and substantial majorities in both chambers of Congress, were never expected last year to make the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, in any of its versions, the law of the land all on their own.

Since GOP Sen. Scott Brown (Mass.) took office last February, there were never more than 59 senators in Mr. Reid's majority caucus. But it takes 60 to bring up a piece of legislation for a final vote if opponents seek to block it by launching an extended debate.

The reason Mr. Reid nearly succeeded last summer in making his pet scheme the law of the land was because six out of the 41 GOP senators were sponsoring S.1611, monopoly-bargaining legislation virtually identical to the Reid bill.

Last July 1, the House monopoly-bargaining legislation sailed through the lower chamber as an amendment to H.R.4899, a massive, unrelated defense spending bill. Union strategists eagerly anticipated the Senate passing the

whole measure later that month.

## All-Out Right to Work Mobilization Stalled Union Lobbying Blitz

But then, for several weeks in July, freedom-loving Americans mobilized by the National Right to Work Committee contacted their senators again and again, urging them to oppose H.R.4899 on all votes unless and until the public-safety union monopoly-bargaining amendment was removed.

Firefighters union boss Schaitberger personally expressed alarm in an e-mail to union operatives that the "National Right to Work Committee" was "working the phones."

Several organizations representing the interests of local governments and public-safety departments, such as the National Sheriffs' Association, joined with the Committee in lobbying against the forced-unionism sneak play.

The message clearly got through to a number of senators who normally vote with Big Labor, but were getting antsy and antsy about their next election.

On the evening of July 22, the Senate voted down the House-passed version of H.R.4899, and then approved a war-spending bill without the monopoly-bargaining provision. Finally, on July 27, a chastened House acquiesced to the Senate's action, and

sent a stripped-down war supplemental to President Obama's desk.

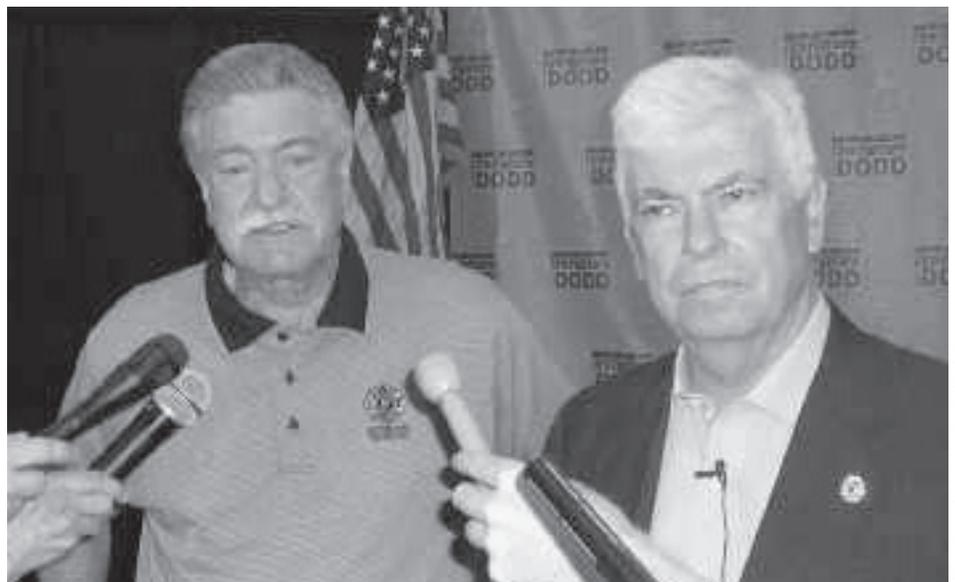
Of course, Harry Reid didn't give up at that point, or even after voters ousted two Senate proponents of federally mandated public-safety union monopoly bargaining, Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), replacing them with 100% Right to Work supporters, in the November 2 general elections.

## Right to Work Supporters Continued Turning up the Pressure on 'Lame Ducks'

On December 8, the "lame-duck" Senate voted on Mr. Reid's cloture motion to cut off debate by Right to Work proponents so that S.3991, his latest version of the police/fire union power grab, could get the Senate green light, then race through the House and go to President Obama's desk.

But, thanks once again to intense grass-roots lobbying efforts by Right to Work supporters, Mr. Reid came up five votes short of the 60 he needed to achieve cloture, with three Senate Democrats and half-a-dozen Republicans who had previously supported the legislation voting "No."

"Right to Work members and supporters nationwide never let down their guard until the 111th Congress adjourned for good on December 22," observed Committee President Mark Mix. "That is how they pulled off a remarkable victory for independent-minded public servants and taxpayers." 📌



After the 2009-2010 Senate adjourned without okaying his #1 legislative objective, firefighters union czar

Harold Schaitberger (left) lamented: "There is no way to sugar coat the significance of this loss."

# Right to Work Members Win Against Long Odds

## Committee Defeats Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Legislation

With the long-anticipated conclusion of the 111th Congress a few weeks ago, National Right to Work Committee members and supporters achieved a major legislative victory that had seemed a near impossibility at the Congress's inception in 2009.

Just before Christmas, Congress adjourned without having rubber-stamped Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" (S.3991).

This was government union bosses' "top legislative priority" in the 111th Congress, as International Firefighters (IAFF/AFL-CIO) union czar Harold

Schaitberger admitted mournfully after the adjournment.

Seasoned Capitol Hill observers had confidently predicted the Reid legislation would pass into law before the end of 2010, and with good reason.

At the outset of the 2009-2010 Congress, the votes were there to pass the bill in both chambers of Congress. Furthermore, President Obama was publicly vowing to sign it as soon as it reached his desk.

The only possible hope of blocking the government union power grab was a Senate filibuster -- and mustering the 41 votes needed to sustain one seemed

to be a long shot at best.

Nevertheless, from the beginning, Committee members and supporters were ready to fight to the hilt, because the stakes were so high.

### 'Already Strong Lobby' Sought Even More Power

S.3991, referred to unofficially, but accurately, as the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, would have empowered Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) bureaucrats to survey all 50 states and identify which had failed to meet the legislation's "core standards."

And the key "core standard" was mandatory union monopoly bargaining. Localities in all 50 states would have been denied the option to refuse to grant a single public-safety union the power to speak for all front-line employees, including those who didn't want to join.

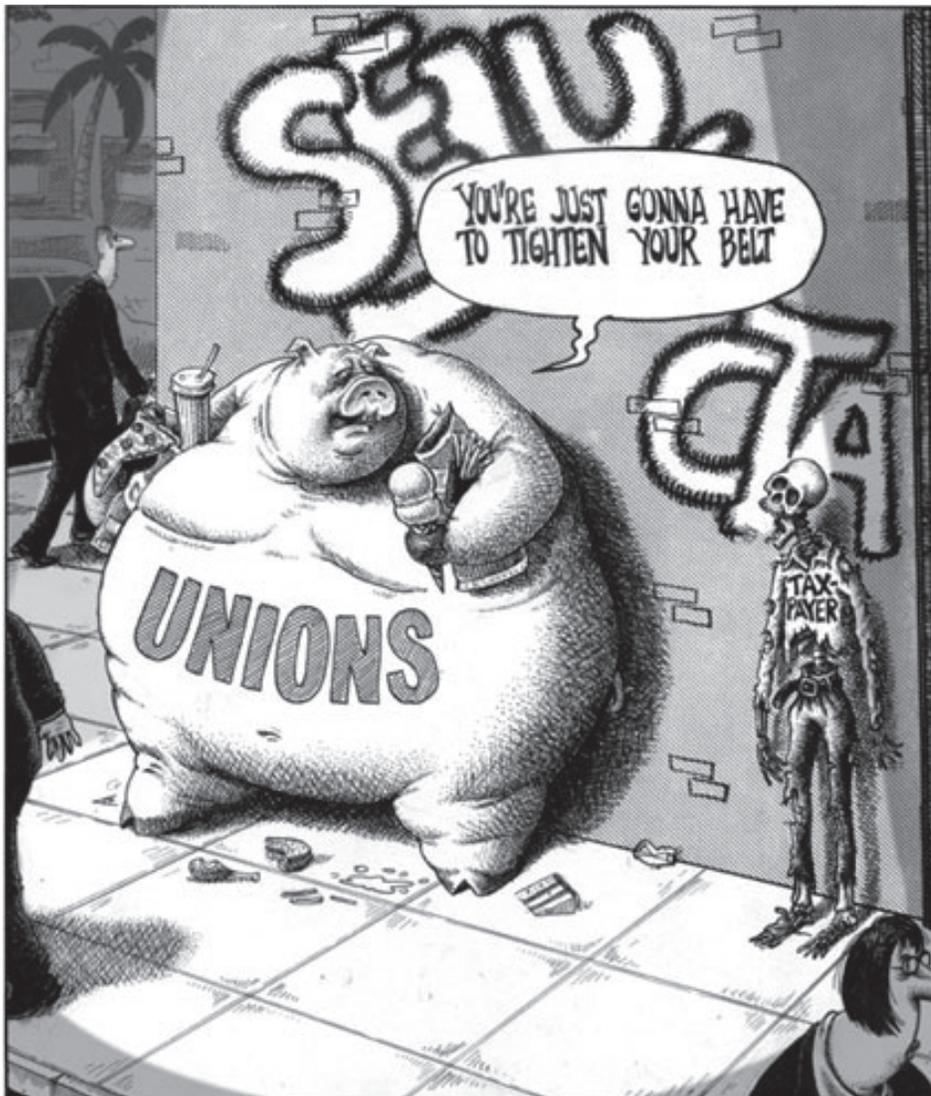
Monopoly bargaining, euphemistically labeled as "exclusive representation," would have been foisted on police, firefighters, and other public-safety employees nationwide. And in most states that already authorize public-safety monopoly bargaining, this legislation would have widened its scope.

As *Wall Street Journal* reporter Kris Maher noted late last spring, under legislation like S.3991, if any state had refused to institute monopoly bargaining and comply with other mandates, FLRA bureaucrats would have implemented them themselves.

Sen. Reid personally introduced two different versions of the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill. In April 2010, Mr. Reid sponsored S.3194, a bill he could bring to the floor at any time, without any preliminary committee action.

And during the "lame-duck" Senate session late last year, he introduced S.3991, a modest variation on his earlier measure crafted to garner more support through its exemption of sheriffs' departments from the federal monopoly-bargaining mandate.

Yet another Senate version of the Police Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill was sponsored as S.1611 by Big Labor appeaser Judd Gregg (R-N.H.). In the House, union-label Congressman Dale



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For years, state laws mandating government union monopolies have fueled skyrocketing state and local

taxes. But taxpayers finally have some good news with Right to Work's defeat of a federal union-monopoly mandate.

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