



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Advances in U.S., State Capitols

Federal Data Again Confirm: Forced Unionism Impedes Income Growth

Last month, the U.S. Commerce Department released its estimates for 2010 annual personal income in each of the 50 states, and the U.S. Labor Department did the same for 2010 annual private-sector employment at the state level.

Combined, the Commerce and Labor reports indicate once again that forced unionism diminishes employees' real incomes over time while eliminating job opportunities.

Overall, real personal income (adjusted for inflation with the Consumer Price Index) grew by 15.7% nationwide during the first decade of the new millennium, less than half as much as it had increased during the 1990's.

However, the 22 states that protect employees from being fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union fared far better than did the other 28. And a review of how incomes and jobs grew (or failed to grow) in each state suggests the U.S. Congress could dramatically improve America's economic prospects for the next decade by repealing forced union dues and fees nationwide.

Bottom 18 States in Income Growth Allow Compulsory Unionism

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 6.3 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.

Fourteen of the 22 Right to Work states experienced real 2000-2010 real personal income growth of 20.0% or more, compared to the national average of 15.7%. And not one of the 18 states with real personal income growth of under 15.0% has a Right to Work law on the books.

Overall, real personal income grew by an average of 24.3% in the 22 Right to Work states. That's more than double the 10.9% increase for non-Right to Work states as a group.

Right to Work States Also Enjoy a Big Edge in Private-Sector Job Growth

Federal data for long-term private-sector job growth reveal a similarly lopsided advantage for Right to Work states.

Nationwide, private-sector employment fell by 3.66 million, or 3.3%, from 2000 to 2010. That's the worst 10-year net job loss since the Great Depression.

See Federal and State page 2

Real Personal Income Growth In the Most Populous States, 2000-2010

Right to Work

Texas	+31.4%
Florida	+25.0%
Georgia	+15.6%
North Carolina	+19.0%
Virginia	+25.8%
Arizona	+30.2%
Tennessee	+16.2%
Average	+24.9%

Forced-Unionism

California	+11.7%
New York	+13.7%
Illinois.....	+7.7%
Pennsylvania.....	+11.6%
Ohio	+1.7%
Michigan.....	-5.0%
New Jersey.....	+8.2%
Average	+8.9%

Sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Department

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Labor Department

Every one of the seven most populous Right to Work states had substantially faster personal income growth over the

past decade than did every one of the seven most populous compulsory-unionism states.

Federal and State Action Needed

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However, aggregate private-sector employment in Right to Work states weathered the storm relatively well, and actually grew by 0.3%. Meanwhile, private payrolls in forced-unionism states plummeted by a combined average of 5.5%.

"The hard, objective statistics from the U.S. Commerce and Labor Departments help show why S.504, a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate last month by Jim DeMint [R-S.C.] and Rand Paul [R-Ky.], is extraordinarily important legislation," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Federal Forced-Dues Repeal Would Help Reinvigorate National Economic Growth

"S.504, also known as the National Right to Work Act, would simply repeal NLRA and RLA provisions that authorize compulsory union dues and fee payments as a condition of employment," Mr. Mix explained.

"When S.504 becomes law, private-sector employees in all 50 states will have the freedom to choose as individuals whether or not to join or pay dues to a union, without facing job loss as a consequence of their decision.

"Restoring the personal freedom of millions of American employees is the direct and primary purpose of S.504.

"It won't add one word to federal law.

"At the same time, of all the economic reforms Congress may consider this year and in 2012, S.504 would surely have the strongest positive impact for incomes and jobs.

"Leading labor economists such as Dr. Richard Vedder of Ohio University have shown repeatedly that forced unionism hinders income and employment growth."

Compulsory Union Dues Bankroll Growth-Hindering Policies

"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 politics," Mr. Mix continued.

"And the union-label politicians who routinely get elected and reelected because of their forced dues-funded

support overwhelmingly favor higher taxes and more red-tape regulation of businesses. This is true at the federal, state and local levels.

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

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

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

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

"The 2.6 million National Right to Work Committee members are now lobbying hard to build Senate support for S.504, which already has a total of 12 sponsors. And we will do the same thing in the U.S. House once companion national Right to Work legislation is introduced there," said Mr. Mix.

But as momentous as enactment of a national Right to Work law would be, he cautioned, it would not stamp out the evils of forced union dues and fees across the nation.

Only State Right to Work Laws Can Protect State and Local Public Servants

"Today, a majority of the American employees under union monopoly-bargaining control work for the government," Mr. Mix explained. "And millions of state and local government workers are forced under the laws of their states to fork over union dues as a condition of employment.

"S.504 does not, and indeed could not, protect public school teachers and other local and state government employees from compulsory unionism. To accomplish this critical objective, state legislation is necessary.

"For that reason as well as for several others, Committee members are fighting this spring to pass Right to Work legislation in the New Hampshire, Maine, and Missouri capitols, along with several others.

"The Right to Work legislation in New Hampshire [H.B.474] has already cleared the state House of Representatives and is awaiting action in the state Senate. Up to a dozen of the remaining 28 forced-unionism states could hold legislative floor votes on Right to Work this year." 📌



National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix: "[O]f all the economic reforms Congress may

consider this year and in 2012, S.504 would surely have the strongest positive impact for incomes and jobs."

CREDIT: C-SPAN

Union-Label Academics Gloss Over Oklahoma Facts

Sooners' Real Income Growth Outpaces Non-Right to Work Neighbors'

A decade ago this September, Oklahoma became the 22nd state to adopt a Right to Work law protecting employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to a union they didn't ask for, and don't want.

Because union lawyers almost immediately launched an array of legal challenges that kept the Sooner Right to Work law tied up in court for roughly two years, it did not immediately break Big Labor's compulsory-unionism grip over tens of thousands of Oklahoma workers.

However, since the state Supreme Court rebuffed union lawyers' anti-Right to Work cases in two unanimous decisions in late 2003, Oklahoma has had one of the strongest economies in the country, as measured by a number of key indicators.

For example, from 2003 to 2010, inflation-adjusted U.S. Commerce Department data show real personal income in Oklahoma soared by 22.5%, compared to nationwide growth of just 12.9%.

Real personal income in the Sooner State also grew more than in each of its three forced-unionism neighbor states (Missouri, Colorado and New Mexico), which scored an aggregate increase of just over half of Oklahoma's growth.

'Scholarly' Economic Policy Institute Gets Millions of Dollars From Big Labor Bosses

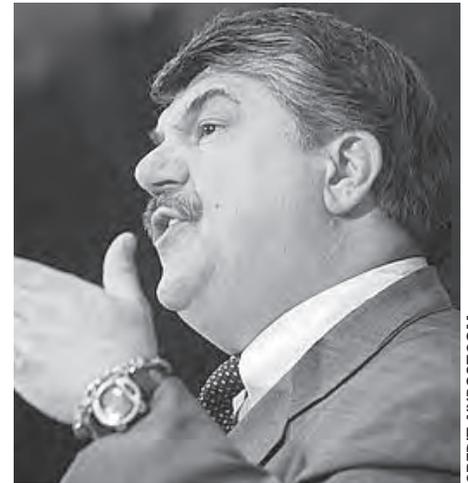
Private-sector employment growth is another major indicator that Oklahoma's Right to Work law has helped boost economic growth, as proponents predicted it would. According to the U.S. Labor Department, from 2003 to 2010 private-sector employment in Oklahoma increased by 3.2%, even as it fell by 1.0% nationwide and inched up by an average of just 0.02% in Oklahoma's forced-unionism neighbor states.

In the face of such data, it is not surprising that more and more legislators in economically struggling states like Michigan, Rhode Island, Maine, Missouri and Indiana are supporting adoption of Right to Work measures as a means of reviving growth as well as on moral grounds.

And top union bosses evidently know the economic facts are against them. Why else would they funnel millions of dollars from their forced dues-funded



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CREDIT: NYPOST.COM

Academic forced-unionism apologists like the University of Oregon's Gordon Lafer (left) are no more dispassionate or

accurate in discussing Right to Work laws and their effects than AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka would be.

treasuries every year into putatively "scholarly" union front organizations such as the Washington, D.C., based Economic Policy Institute (EPI)?

The EPI, its protégé groups in state capitals, and other such outfits spend substantial portions of their time and resources muddying the waters regarding economic progress in Right to Work states, and especially in Oklahoma, the most recent state to ban forced union dues and fees.

A widely disseminated example is an EPI paper published early last month, entitled: "Does 'Right-to-Work' Create Jobs? Answers From Oklahoma." The paper stridently answers in the negative while furnishing readers with virtually no unvarnished data they can assess for themselves.

Right to Work Laws Influence Other Key Economic Policies

Coauthored by two pro-forced unionism professors, Gordon Lafer (University of Oregon) and Sylvia Allegretto (University of California, Berkeley), this 22-page paper never mentions the fact that Oklahoma's private-sector employment growth has far outpaced the national average since its Right to Work law took hold.

Nor does the paper mention that Oklahoma's job growth relative to the national average improved greatly after the state Supreme Court upheld its Right to Work law in 2003.

"Drs. Lafer and Allegretto evidently feel justified in not mentioning such plainly relevant and inconvenient facts because they have satisfied themselves that Oklahoma's success is due to some factor other than its ban on forced union dues," said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"But it's no good for Big Labor's academic allies to contend that Oklahoma's, or any other Right to Work state's, superior economic growth is 'really' due to lower taxes, or less onerous regulation of business.

"The fact is, wherever union bosses wield forced-dues privileges, they funnel a large share of the loot into efforts to elect and reelect politicians who support more government spending, higher taxes, and more red tape for businesses of all kinds.

"The generally less onerous tax burdens and more reasonable regulation of business that are typical of Right to Work states aren't incidental: They are largely a product of Right to Work laws.

"While the EPI and its fellows are obviously biased against Right to Work legislation, one shouldn't assume Drs. Lafer and Allegretto are deliberately distorting the facts. But, whatever the reason, they leave out the big picture.

"Right to Work Oklahoma's economy is outpacing the nation's, and performing far better than it did, relative to other states, before Sooners abolished compulsory unionism." 

Pundits Assess 'Foot Voting' For Right to Work

Forced-Unionism-State Exodus Well-Documented by 2010 Census

Regular readers of the National Right to Work Newsletter already know that, during the last decade alone, a net total of roughly five million people moved from states where forced union dues and fees are authorized and promoted to states where this form of Big Labor coercion is legally prohibited.

Newsletter readers also have learned that out-migrants from forced-unionism states disproportionately consist of young adults, who are typically motivated by a desire to advance their careers.

Unfortunately, Americans who rely on TV and radio reporting and punditry, daily newspapers, and large Internet news aggregators for their information about demographic and economic trends are far less likely to know about the U.S. Census Bureau-documented phenomenon of "foot voting" for Right to Work.

Therefore, political analyst and pundit Michael Barone deserves credit for his persistent efforts, well represented in a nationally syndicated newspaper column he wrote last month, to publicize and explain for ordinary citizens the ongoing great migration from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states.

The column, appearing under various headlines in major newspapers such as the *Washington Examiner* (where Mr. Barone is senior political analyst) and the *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch* and on much-visited Internet sites like *Real Clear Politics*, was based on recently-released U.S. Census data for all 50 states.

Monopolistic Government Unions 'Tend to Stifle Growth and Produce a Two-Tier Society'

With regard to the data, Mr. Barone wrote: "Behind the columns of numbers are many vivid stories of how our nation has been changing -- and some lessons for public policy, as well."

One lesson is that the combination of pervasive monopolistic "public-employee unions" and the "high taxes" they invariably push for tends "to stifle growth and produce a two-tier society like coastal California's," with "a large affluent upper class, a vast proletariat, and a huge income gap in between."

A lack of opportunities for middle-class families is the reason California, with no Right to Work law and with



CREDIT: ANDREW HARNIK

In recent syndicated newspaper columns, influential pundits Michael Barone (left) and Thomas Sowell have used U.S.



CREDIT: TSOEWELL.COM

Census data to show how all kinds of Americans are "voting with their feet" against compulsory unionism.

roughly 60% of its public servants under union monopoly control, is experiencing a "vast outflow of Americans," despite the Golden State's temperate climate and extraordinary natural beauty.

Overwhelmingly because of domestic-migration trends, Mr. Barone noted:

"The 22 states with right-to-work laws grew 15 percent [in population] in the last decade. The other states grew just 6 percent. The 16 states where collective [monopoly] bargaining with public employees is not required grew 15 percent in the last decade. The other states grew 7 percent."

Emblematic of states with Right to Work laws and little or no public-sector monopoly bargaining, in Mr. Barone's assessment, is the Lone Star State:

"Texas's economy has diversified far beyond petroleum, with booming high-tech centers, major corporate headquarters, and thriving small businesses. It has attracted hundreds of thousands of Americans and immigrants, high-skill as well as low-skill."

All Kinds of Americans Shun States That Repel 'Their Most Productive Citizens'

Another late-March syndicated newspaper column, by Hoover Institution economist Thomas Sowell, noted that the population exodus from forced-unionism bastions like California,

Michigan and Illinois is ethnically as well as educationally diverse.

Americans of all ethnicities, especially those in their prime working years and those with college degrees, observed Dr. Sowell, "are leaving the states that are repelling their most productive citizens in general with liberal [i.e., pro-forced unionism and high-tax] policies."

As one example, he called attention to Census data showing that forced-unionism California is recently repelling the Asian immigrants for whom it has "long been a prime destination." The 2010 Census "shows a striking increase in the Asian American population of [neighboring] Nevada," a Right to Work state.

"I applaud pundits like Michael Barone and Thomas Sowell who are helping more and more Americans understand that forced unionism is an opportunity destroyer for employees, regardless of their skills, age or ethnicity," said Greg Mourad, legislative director for the National Right to Work Committee.

"Incredibly, Big Labor lobbyists and their allies persist in trying to block enactment of new state and federal Right to Work legislation by pitting citizens against each other based on their education level, ethnicity or race.

"The fact is, compulsory unionism harms all Americans, with the exception of union officials themselves." 📌

House Backs Independent Transportation Workers

Right to Work Inoculates Majority Against 'LaTourette's Syndrome'

Early this month, U.S. House members voted to turn back a Big Labor-inspired rewrite of the procedures through which union officials acquire monopoly-bargaining privileges under the Railway Labor Act (RLA).

On April 1, the House considered an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R.658) by union-label Democratic Rep. Jerry Costello (Ill.) and Big Labor-appeasing Republican Rep. Steven LaTourette (Ohio).

Had it been approved, the Costello-LaTourette Amendment would have constituted a cruel April Fools' Day joke on independent-minded airline and railroad industry employees.

Costello-LaTourette would have given a seal of approval to an RLA rule change instituted last June by President Obama's two appointees on the three-member National Mediation Board (NMB).

Unless Congress quickly wields its authority to overturn the power grab by NMB members Harry Hoglander and Linda Puchala, both ex-union bosses, for the foreseeable future it will be far easier for airline and railroad union chiefs to acquire monopoly power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules.

Union Monopoly Bargaining Hurts Employees and Businesses

Federally-imposed "exclusive" union bargaining undermines efficiency and productivity by forcing employers to reward equally their most productive and least productive employees.

The damage is compounded when the employees already hurt by being forced to accept a union bargaining agent opposed to their interests are then forced to pay dues or fees to the unwanted union.

Fortunately, Right to Work laws in 22 states, where nearly 40% of the private-sector workforce is employed, prohibit the collection of forced dues from the vast majority of employees.

However, in 1951, when Congress amended the RLA to impose for the first time forced union dues and fees on airline and railroad employees, Big Labor senators and representatives denied states the option to protect employees' Right to Work.



CREDIT: CLEVEScene.COM

Ohio GOP Congressman Steven LaTourette evidently can't control his tendency to appease Big Labor bosses.

Ever since, union bosses have had the government-granted power to get airline and railroad employees fired for refusal to bankroll a union in all 50 states, including Right to Work states.

Showdown With the White House May Be on the Horizon

Partly in order to compensate for the unique privileges airline/railroad union officials enjoy, even relative to other union officials, federal labor policy has long set a somewhat higher bar for RLA-covered union bosses to acquire forced-unionism powers.

Until last year, airline and railroad union kingpins have needed the backing

of the majority of all of a firm's employees in a "craft or class," not merely the majority of those who vote, to be installed as employees' monopoly-bargaining agent.

The Hoglander-Puchala bureaucratic rewrite of decades-old RLA procedures enables union chiefs to get monopoly power as long as a majority of the employees who vote back them.

Just last month, International Association of Machinists (IAM) union bosses took advantage of this rule to grab monopoly control over 1906 AirTran employees, even though 66% had not voted for unionization.

Fortunately, H.R.658, which has now been adopted by the House, would overturn the Hoglander-Puchala scheme and restore the higher bar for union monopoly bargaining.

Before final passage of H.R.658, intense grass-roots lobbying by National Right to Work Committee members persuaded a 220-206 majority to defeat the Costello-LaTourette Amendment endorsing Mr. Hoglander and Ms. Puchala's power grab.

"Countless thousands of Right to Work supporters who contacted their House members in opposition to the amendment deserve credit for inoculating many against 'LaTourette's syndrome' of uncontrollable Big Labor appeasement," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

The House vote could set the stage for a showdown with the Obama Administration over RLA union monopoly bargaining, Mr. Mix added. 📌

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'I Will Have Your Decapitated Head on a Pike'

Revocation of Forced-Dues Privileges Enrages Wisconsin Union Bosses

As more and more states enacted Right to Work laws starting in the middle of the 20th Century, private-sector Big Labor bosses in state after state have had to adjust to the loss of their power to get employees fired for refusal to join a union or pay forced "agency" fees.

Private-sector union bigwigs hate having to deal with workers who can protest union actions they oppose by resigning their membership and cutting off their financial support. But time and again they have had to get used to it.

But until this past month, extraordinarily few government union bigwigs have had to cope with the loss of their forced-fee privileges. The reason why is that public-sector forced unionism was not legally authorized or commonly practiced in any of the 22 states that now have Right to Work laws on the books at the time the law was first enacted.

In late February and early last month, government union chiefs in Wisconsin became the first in U.S. history to see a measure removing their statutory forced-fee control over employees receive legislative consideration and approval and be signed into law. (Unfortunately, the forced-fee repeal exempted public-safety and all private-sector union officials.)

Big Labor's response has been a spasm of fury.

'Death Threats by the Dozens'

On March 9, one of the state Senate supporters of the budget and labor-law reform package (S.B.11) including the Right to Work measure, Dan Kapanke (R-La Crosse), received an e-mail including the following passage:

"We will hunt you down. We will slit your throats. We will drink your blood. I will have your decapitated head on a pike in the Madison town square. This is your last warning."

As syndicated columnist Derooy Murdock reported in an article ("Death Threats by the Dozens in Wisconsin") for *National Review Online* last month, Sen. Kapanke was just one of many legislative supporters of S.B.11 to receive chilling "warnings" from Big Labor militants.

One legislative insider in Madison (Wisconsin's state capital) told Mr. Murdock that pro-S.B.11 elected officials had received "at least a dozen



CREDIT: HILLBUZZ.ORG

Government union bosses and their zealous allies have resorted to ugly and outrageous character assassination as

well as ghoulish death threats in their campaign to perpetuate their forced-unionism privileges in Wisconsin.

credible, specific death threats . . . threats that rose to a level that made people feel unsafe." Many ordinary citizens who support Right to Work have also been threatened.

Police have already identified the sender of two other e-mail death threats to S.B.11 supporters as forced-unionism militant Katherine Windels of Cross Plains. The Dane County Head Start teacher has reportedly already confessed to the criminal acts.

On May 10, 15 senators who had stood up to Big Labor received her message that read, in part: "This is how it's going to happen: I as well as many others know where you and your family live. . . . We have all planned to assault you by arriving at your house and putting a nice little bullet in your head."

Government Union Radicals Are Showing Their True Colors

As Mr. Murdock observed, death threats, regardless of whether the issuer actually intends to carry them out, are "anti-democratic, since they can

intimidate elected officials, activists, and other citizens into milquetoast governance and advocacy."

And in Wisconsin it appears to be exclusively proponents of S.B.11, rather than Big Labor politicians and activists, whose lives are being threatened.

"In their public demonstrations in Wisconsin, union bigwigs and their radical followers have suggested Gov. Walker's support for public employees' Right to Work makes him similar to Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Mubarak, or even Satan," commented National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"The ghoulish and profane messages being disseminated by forced-unionism supporters who aim, successfully or not, to remain anonymous are of a piece with Big Labor bosses' public strategy of using character assassination to destroy their perceived enemies.

"Government union chiefs and their allies are now revealing their true colors to ordinary Americans. I'm confident they don't like what they see." 📢

Forced Unionism Hurts Taxpayers

Continued from page 8

the Big Labor-inspired legal challenges faced by Right to Work law.

"Despite the fact that, due to the zealous opposition of the union bosses and their allied politicians, it remains in legal limbo for now, the approval of Wisconsin's new labor-law reform constitutes an important victory for freedom-loving Americans," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

National Right to Work Helped Mobilize Public Support For Reforms

"Public support for S.B.11 was mobilized in part by Right to Work's e-mail and telecommunications activities. Of course, we wouldn't have been able to do this without the generous and loyal assistance of the 2.6 million Committee members," Mr. Mix continued.

"This was the first time in history that a state legislature revoked government union bosses' forced-dues privileges after previously passing a law explicitly authorizing compulsory unionism.

"Now Big Labor puppet politicians and union lawyers are trying to use the court system to get rid of this Right to Work reform.

"However, union bigwigs can't do anything about the mounting intensity and effectiveness of public opposition to compulsory unionism in government across America, as was just witnessed in the Buckeye State.

"On March 31, Ohio became the second state this year to adopt legislation [S.B.5] restoring the Right to Work of public servants. And, unlike Wisconsin's law, Ohio's protects all categories of state and local government employees, including public-safety officers.

"The 118,000 National Committee members in Ohio were instrumental in helping secure this second major victory for the Right to Work cause in a period of a little over two weeks.

"But the fact is that more and more concerned citizens in state after state are now enlisting in Right to Work's long-running fight to make government agencies more accountable and affordable by extricating public employees from Big Labor control."

Mr. Mix emphasized that all taxpayers, including but not limited to the millions

of Americans who support the Right to Work as a matter of principle, have a stake in measures protecting public employees from forced union dues and fees.

States With Heaviest Government Unionization Have Higher Taxes, More Debt

"The record shows that monopoly unionization of government employees is closely associated with higher taxes and more public debt," observed Mr. Mix. "That's why public-sector Right to Work policies are good for taxpayers, and eliminating public-sector union monopoly bargaining is even better.

"In 2008, while 41% of all government employees, federal, state and local, nationwide were unionized, government 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 government unionization higher than 50%.

"Meanwhile, every one of the 10 states with the least long-term debt as a share of their 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!

"States, cities, towns and counties across America are facing their worst fiscal crisis in decades. Eliminating compulsory unionism in government wherever it is currently authorized is a critical part of the solution."

Rolling Back the Tide of Government Union Monopoly Will Be a Long Struggle

Mr. Mix emphasized that the battle is just getting underway.

"At the beginning of this year, more than 20 states had laws on the books forcing front-line public employees to pay union dues, or be fired. The new public-sector Right to Work measures in Wisconsin and Ohio represent real progress, but they are just a start," he explained.

"And Big Labor is already fighting to reverse the recent gains Right to Work has made, through litigation in Wisconsin and a likely November repeal ballot measure in Ohio.

"Government union bosses are prepared to use every trick in the book to perpetuate their extraordinary legal privileges in the face of widespread public opposition. But at least now we have concrete proof it is possible to repeal public-sector forced-unionism statutes." 📌



The record shows that pervasive unionization of government employees is closely associated with higher taxes and

more government debt. Therefore, all taxpayers have a stake in protecting public employees' Right to Work.

Union Bigwigs Strive to Undo Wisconsin Reform

Ohio Legislature Safeguards Right to Work of Public Servants

In 1959, Big Labor lobbyists and their allied politicians rammed through the Wisconsin Legislature the first state law in the country authorizing and promoting "exclusive" union bargaining over teachers and other public servants.

Like other union-label laws that have since made it onto the books in more than 30 other states, Wisconsin's so-called "Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act" (PECBA) handed Big Labor bosses monopoly power to negotiate with government officials over employees' wages, benefits and working conditions.

Under all such laws, even public employees who choose not to join a union must work under contract terms negotiated by union bosses, or quit their jobs. Independent-minded employees are stripped of any freedom to negotiate with employers on their own behalf.

The 1959 Wisconsin law was a coup for the union hierarchy. But union lobbyists understood that, to get this measure to the desk of then-Gov.

Gaylord Nelson, a Big Labor Democrat, they would have to settle temporarily for less than the whole pie.

And one important privilege the government union brass decided they could do without, for the time being, was the power to get employees fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to their union monopoly-bargaining agent.

According to Ohio legal historian Joseph Slater, to dampen opposition to the PECBA, top bosses of the Wisconsin affiliate of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) "quickly agreed" to an amendment "stating that employees had the right to refrain from union activities."

AFSCME bosses consented to this public-sector Right to Work amendment even though Wisconsin was not a Right to Work state, and private-sector Wisconsinites were routinely forced to pay union tribute, or be fired.

National and Badger State government union strategists

undoubtedly calculated that, once public-sector monopoly bargaining became entrenched, they could get rid of employees' Right to Work protections.

State Prepared to Cease Extracting Forced Union Dues From Employees' Paychecks

And that's exactly what happened: A dozen years later, lobbyists for AFSCME's Wisconsin affiliate prevailed upon the Legislature to amend the PECBA by authorizing termination for employees who refused to join the union or fork over forced union "agency" fees.

Over the years, Big Labor has performed this forced-unionism "two-step" dance time and again, in state after state. First union bosses forswear interest in forcing workers to join or pay dues to lower resistance to public-sector monopoly bargaining; then, a few years later, they successfully demand that a forced-fee provision be added to the monopoly-bargaining law.

But this year, to the shock and anger of the union bosses, majorities in the Wisconsin state Senate and Assembly as well as GOP Gov. Scott Walker are refusing to let them call the dances.

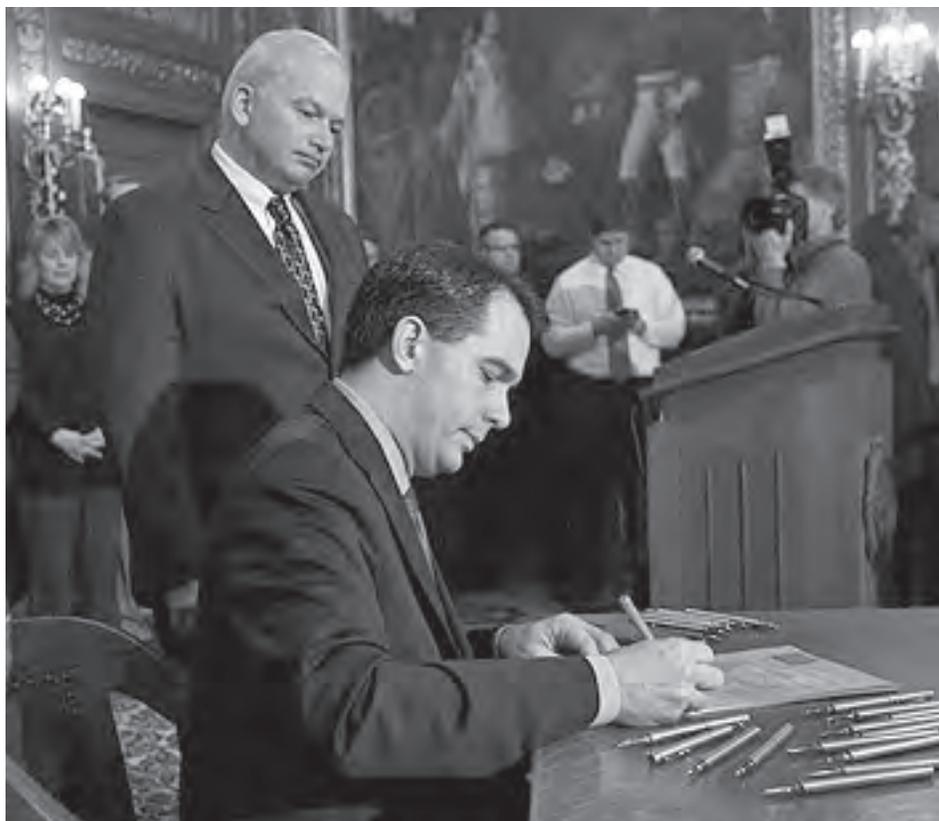
On March 11, Gov. Walker, heeding the pleas of freedom-loving citizens, signed into law a measure (S.B.11) abolishing all forced union dues and fees for teachers and many other public employees and also sharply limiting the scope of union monopoly bargaining.

The new law also completely prohibits "exclusive" union representation in the public university system. At the same time, unfortunately, it leaves completely intact the coercive legal privileges of police and firefighter union bosses.

In late March, the Wisconsin state government announced it would begin implementing the new Right to Work law covering most state and local public servants by ceasing this month to withhold forced union dues and fees from the paychecks of employees on state payrolls.

However, just as this Newsletter issue went to press, all plans to stop collecting compulsory tribute for the union hierarchy were put on hold because of

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