



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## 'In a Sense,' We 'Elect Our Own Boss' *Union Czar's Famous Boast Illuminates Today's State Fiscal Crises*

An October 27, 1975 *New York* magazine feature article by journalist Ken Auletta examined the causes of the Big Apple's financial implosion that year. Three-and-a-half decades later, the article is still remembered for a remarkable quote from government union bigwig Victor Gotbaum.

The then-head of the extraordinarily powerful, Manhattan-based District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) union had "recently remarked," the story reported: "We have the ability, in a sense, to elect our own boss."

Mr. Gotbaum was alluding to the fact that, in jurisdictions like New York, where union monopoly bargaining over the pay, benefits, and working conditions of public servants is authorized by law, union bosses negotiate with government officials over such issues. At the same time, government union chiefs funnel a huge portion of the (often compulsory) dues and fees they collect from unionized workers into efforts to influence the outcomes of local and state elections.

And the outcomes of those elections often determine who represents the public at the bargaining table.

"In city after city and state after state, union bosses wield their privilege to force public employees to pay union dues, or be fired, to amass huge war chests, with which they support and oppose candidates for public office," explained National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Big Labor thus determines who sits on one side of the bargaining table, and heavily influences who sits on the other. It is a terrible conflict of interest, which Victor Gotbaum plainly recognized, even as he bragged about it.



CREDIT: U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & GOVERNMENT REFORM

**Last month, Right to Work President Mark Mix explained to a U.S. House panel why the states with the most severe**

**long-term debt problems are also, overwhelmingly, strongholds of government union bosses.**

"Mr. Gotbaum retired years ago, but his observation about how monopolistic unionism works in practice in the public sector is even more pertinent today than when he first uttered it."

### **High Government-Union-Density States Regarded as 'Most Likely to Default'**

It is for that reason that, when Mr. Mix testified before the U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee April 14 regarding the severe long-term fiscal imbalances now faced by many states and localities, he drew heavily on Mr. Gotbaum's insight.

"Excessive spending, taxation and debt are endemic to governments everywhere, but there are large,

measurable differences between the states that have handed monopoly privileges to public-sector union officials, and states that have resisted the pressure," Mr. Mix explained to panel members.

To illustrate the differences, Mr. Mix cited several sources, including a May 2010 analysis published on the *Business Insider* web site.

*Business Insider* rated heavily unionized California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin as the worst default risks for a totally objective reason: Traders who wished to buy protection against the possibility of default by these nine states had to pay higher premiums (technically known as

*See Denial page 2*

# Union Bosses in Budgetary Denial

*Continued from page 1*

"CDS spreads") than did traders seeking protection against default risk for any of the other 41.

As Mr. Mix pointed out to the panel, an average of 61% of public-sector employees in the nine worst default-risk states were under union monopoly bargaining in 2009. That is, overall public-sector unionization was 20 percentage points higher than in a typical state. And not one of the 22 states with 2009 public-sector unionization of under 30% was to be found on *Business Insider's* "most likely to default" list.

## Union Bosses Win and Taxpayers Lose, Either Way

Monopolistic government unionism sometimes results in higher pay and more lavish benefits for public employees, but that is not its basic goal.

In fact, government union bosses often resist productivity-enhancing capital investments that would likely make employees' jobs easier and raise per employee compensation, but reduce the ranks of union dues-payers over time.

The real focus of government union officials is to transform public employees into a reliable source of money and power for a private interest group, namely Organized Labor.

Regardless of whether government union bosses corrupt employees by, for example, encouraging them to retire with full pension benefits while they are still in their prime working years, or exploit them by, say, blocking back-sparing productivity enhancements, taxpayers end up getting hurt.

That's why, concluded Mr. Mix, in all states that now have laws on the books authorizing forced union dues and fees and union monopoly bargaining in the public sector, repealing those laws is critical for making government agencies more accountable and affordable.

## National Right to Work Committee Has Boosted Grass-Roots Lobbying Efforts

In addition to Mr. Mix, several experts on state budgetary matters and Govs. Scott Walker (R-Wisc.) and Peter Shumlin (D-Vermont) accepted invitations to testify at the April 14 hearing. It was held

by Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.).

On March 11, Mr. Walker enraged union officials across America when, heeding the pleas of freedom-loving citizens, he 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.

Even though union bosses and their allied politicians have so far kept the new Wisconsin Right to Work law tied up in court and prevented it from taking effect, its approval "constitutes an important victory for freedom-loving Americans," said Mr. Mix after returning to Committee headquarters in Springfield, Va.

"Thanks largely to the generosity and persistence of National Committee members, we have been able this year to assist not only the drive to enact the Wisconsin law protecting most public employees' Right to Work, but also the new Ohio law [S.B.5] that bars all forced union dues and fees in the public sector.

"And just last month, National Committee members helped citizen activists in Right to Work Oklahoma pass legislation [H.B.1593] denying government union bosses the legal power to force municipal officials to

recognize them as public employees' 'exclusive' bargaining agents."


## Right to Work Gains Remain Very Fragile

"Of course, Big Labor is far from ready to accept the idea that its public-sector forced-unionism privileges can be rolled back. In addition to union boss-puppet politicians' court challenge of S.B.11 in Wisconsin, union bigwigs have launched a lavishly funded campaign to overturn S.B.5 in a statewide Ohio referendum this fall," Mr. Mix acknowledged.

"Right to Work's recent gains against government union bosses remain very fragile. Many politicians, such as Mr. Shumlin, continue to deny there is even a problem with monopolistic unionism in government.

"They are parroting the line of International Association of Firefighters union czar Harold Schaitberger, who recently referred to the estimated \$3 trillion in total long-term debt held by the 50 states as a 'fictional' crisis and a 'distraction.'

"Mr. Schaitberger and company will say and do anything to preserve the status quo, highly lucrative for them, of union monopoly in government and crush the Right to Work shoots that have recently sprung up in Wisconsin and Ohio.

"We must never underestimate their grim determination." 



CREDIT: MIKE MUNDEN/GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA

According to firefighters union czar Harold Schaitberger, an estimated total of \$3 trillion in long-term debt held by

state governments, largely as a consequence of monopolistic unionism, is only a "fictional" crisis.



# Recent Right to Work Victories Under Fire

## *Big Labor Blitzes For Compulsory Unionism in Wisconsin and Ohio*

Since the 1960's, Big Labor lobbyists in 21 states have successfully pressured elected officials to pass statutes explicitly authorizing union bosses to get independent-minded public servants fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to a union the employees would never voluntarily join.

Until this year, despite the growing success of the Right to Work movement with regard to the private sector, not a single state legislature had ever revoked government union bosses' forced-dues privileges after previously granting them by statute.

But this March two states, Wisconsin and Ohio, made history by restoring the Right to Work of public servants.

Over ferocious and sometimes menacing Big Labor opposition, Badger State legislators approved, and GOP Gov. Scott Walker signed into law, S.B.11. Key provisions in this law abolish all forced union dues and fees for teachers and many other public employees. Unfortunately, it leaves public-safety officers unprotected.

The Buckeye State reform, which union militants opposed with nearly equal bitterness but considerably less media attention, includes provisions protecting the Right to Work of all categories of state and local government employees, including public-safety officers. This law, signed by GOP Gov. John Kasich, is still commonly referred to by its legislative bill number, S.B.5.

### **National Right to Work Helped Mobilize Public Support For Reforms**

"Public support for S.B.11 was mobilized in part by the National Right to Work Committee's e-mail and telecommunications activities," noted Committee Vice President Matthew Leen. "And the 118,000 National Committee members in Ohio were instrumental in helping secure the passage of S.B.5."

"These were major victories for the Right to Work cause. But they are in danger of being reversed."

In Wisconsin, Mr. Leen noted, a Dane County Circuit judge whose son is a union operative and currently runs a consulting firm for union-label politicians in the state has taken the extraordinary



**The forced dues-funded Big Labor campaign to kill the Buckeye State's fledgling public-sector Right to Work**

law has fittingly chosen a clenched fist superimposed over the state of Ohio as part of its logo.

step of prohibiting publication, let alone enforcement, of S.B.11.

The state Supreme Court may well ultimately overturn Judge Maryann Sumi's edict, but this could take months, or even years.


And in Ohio, Mr. Leen added, the union brass has announced it is prepared to spend \$20 million to kill S.B.5 in a statewide referendum this November. Big Labor agents are now collecting signatures to get their repeal measure on the ballot.

### **Right to Work Leader Hopeful Big Labor Blitzes Can Be Repelled**

"In both states, the National Committee will be offering our advice and counsel, as well as financial resources, to citizen groups and individuals who are battling to keep the new Right to Work laws on the books," said Mr. Leen.

"Given the enormous amount of forced-dues money union bosses continue to have at their disposal in Wisconsin and Ohio, these will be difficult fights. But one important factor we have in our favor is that Gov. Walker and Gov. Kasich have both demonstrated they are willing to stand up for the Right to Work principle."

"Both Mr. Walker and Mr. Kasich offer a refreshing contrast to another Midwestern Republican governor, Indiana's Mitch Daniels, who sabotaged comprehensive Right to Work legislation in his state this year rather than face a showdown with Big Labor over it."

"Thanks in part to the willingness of Mr. Walker and Mr. Kasich to use their bully pulpits to counter Big Labor distortions and falsehoods, I am hopeful the new public-sector Right to Work measures in Wisconsin and Ohio will withstand all union-boss assaults." 

# Taxpayers to Realize More Losses on GM Bailout

## Meanwhile, United Autoworkers Union Bosses Pocket \$3.4 Billion

In late 2008, GOP President George W. Bush "loaned" a total of \$19.4 billion in federal taxpayers' money to the Big Labor-controlled General Motors Corporation (GM).

Mr. Bush assured taxpayers they would get their money back.

But by the spring of 2009, we learned we would never get back any of the money Mr. Bush had handed over to GM shortly before he left office. His successor as President, Democrat Barack Obama, announced GM would never have to settle up with taxpayers.

President Obama simultaneously earmarked an additional \$30 billion in taxpayers' money to by-then bankrupt GM.

In exchange, taxpayers got a 61% stake in the money-losing company.

Echoing Mr. Bush, Mr. Obama and his advisors insisted that, when the government eventually sold off its whole stake in GM, taxpayers would get the entire \$30 billion back, and perhaps even reap a profit.

Just last August, the President said it again.

He told a CNBC interviewer: "We expect taxpayers will get back all the money my Administration has invested in GM."

### 'Government Officials Are Willing to Take the Loss'

No one but the President himself knows whether he actually believed this prediction when he confidently made it time and again, but it certainly hasn't



CREDIT: SCRAPETV.COM

**President Obama falsely assured taxpayers they would "get back" \$30 billion from the GM bailout.**

been fulfilled.

In November 2010, the government sold off 57% of its stake in GM at a loss of roughly \$3.5 billion.

And just last month, the Obama Administration informed the *Wall Street Journal* and other major media that this summer it planned to sell off much of its remaining stake at -- barring a sudden and unlikely jump in the price of GM stock -- another multi-billion-dollar loss.

GM's stock would be worth even less, and taxpayer losses on Mr. Obama's "investment" would be far

greater, had not the special bankruptcy deal the company made with the White House included a \$45.4 billion tax break on future profits in addition to nearly \$50 billion in direct handouts.

Arguably, therefore, federal taxpayers' total loss will be even greater than the \$50 billion directly handed to Big Labor-controlled GM by the Bush and Obama administrations.

"Government officials are willing to take the loss," the *Journal* reported April 19, because the White House wants to put the matter to rest before the beginning of the 2012 presidential election year.

### Autoworkers Union Bosses Are The Chief Beneficiaries Of the GM Bailout

"The GM bailout was obviously an awful deal for taxpayers, but that doesn't mean it was a good deal for the company's rank-and-file employees," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"As professor Todd Zywicki, a specialist in the law-and-economics field, recently pointed out in an article for *National Affairs*, had there been no bailout, GM 'would almost certainly have been re-organized,' producing a 'company more competitive than the one that emerged from the bailout process.'"

"As things stand, nearly two years after the company emerged from bankruptcy on taxpayers' dime, its market share of U.S. sales continues to shrink, and its cars dominate *Forbes* magazine's 'worst on the road' list. There isn't much of a future in working for such a company.

"On the other hand, the United Autoworkers [UAW/AFL-CIO] union bosses whom the White House effectively left in charge of GM have profited from the bailout.

"They wielded their government-granted monopoly-bargaining power to impose wasteful work rules on the company that played a central role in dragging it down.

"Nevertheless, the bailout gave the UAW elite a 17.5% stake in the company, part of which they were able to sell for \$3.4 billion last November. Relative to taxpayers and workers, the UAW brass have made out like bandits."

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# Obama Labor Department: A School For Scandal

## *Union Consultant Charged With Overseeing Union Financial Reports*

On his first full day as U.S. President, Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13490, otherwise known as the Ethics Executive Order.

Under E.O.13490, presidential appointees are required to sign a pledge affirming that, for two years after the day they are appointed, they will not "participate in any particular matter involving a specific party that includes a former employer or former client."

"Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency," Mr. Obama vowed.

Unfortunately, almost from the day E.O.13490 was first issued, the Obama Administration has repeatedly ignored its letter as well as its spirit when it comes to appointees whose job is to oversee and regulate labor unions.

### **Thousands of Union Bosses to Be Exempted From Disclosing Any Conflicts of Interest**

Last month, the National Right to Work Committee issued a report on one of the most egregious examples of an Obama appointee making policies that clearly benefit his former union-boss clients: John Lund, now the director of the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS).

Mr. Lund is a former employee of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE/AFL-CIO).

And he is currently on unpaid leave from the Madison-based University of Wisconsin School for Workers, of which the AFL-CIO and many other unions, as well as many union benefit funds, are clients.

But now Mr. Lund is responsible for overseeing federally-mandated union financial disclosures and criminal investigations regarding union financial irregularities and embezzlement!

"Barack Obama solemnly pledged in 2008 that working in his Administration would 'not be about serving the interests of your former employer or your future employer,'" recalled Right to Work President Mark Mix.

"But it seems plain that serving the interests of his former and future Big Labor employers and clients is exactly what John Lund is up to at the OLMS."

As an example, Mr. Mix pointed out that, just a couple of months into the Obama Administration, the OLMS announced a "non-enforcement policy" allowing thousands of union stewards to avoid disclosing payments they receive from *employers* for union activities that supposedly benefit *employees*.

Moreover, Mr. Lund reportedly now has in the works a permanent revision of conflict-of-interest reports (known as LM-30's) that would exempt thousands of union officials from ever reporting payments they receive from employers for jobs they don't actually have to do, that is, "no-show" jobs.

And Mr. Lund has already eliminated basic financial reporting requirements for many powerful and politically active teacher unions like the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC/NEA) and other union "intermediate bodies."

### **Mark Mix Calls For Congressional Probe of Labor Department Cronyism**

The "Obama Administration Personnel Alert" regarding John Lund is accessible to the public at [www.nrtwc.org](http://www.nrtwc.org) -- the Committee web site. It has also been posted on Andrew Breitbart's much-visited *Big Government* web site, and sent directly to key members of Congress.

"It's long past time for the Obama Administration to start answering tough questions regarding union-boss

cronyism in its Labor Department, and about John Lund in particular," said Committee President Mix.


"In 2009 and 2010, when Big Labor Democrats controlled both chambers of Congress, there was no interest on Capitol Hill in pursuing such an investigation. That's disappointing, but not surprising.

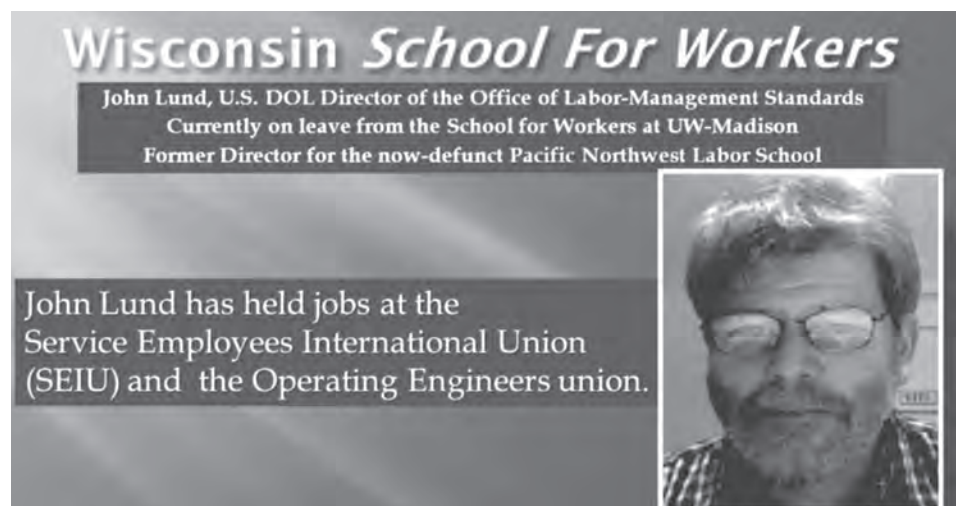
"Now that professedly pro-Right to Work elected officials control the U.S. House, there's no plausible reason why Mr. Lund shouldn't be called before a House committee to explain why he has opted not to comply with E.O.13490.

"Additionally, House investigators should invite Robert Cusick, the director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, to explain why the OGE is allowing Mr. Lund to flout this executive order, which is, after all, the law of the land.

"During his two-year tenure at the OLMS, Mr. Lund has cut the number of labor union investigators, rescinded disclosure of union officer benefits, eliminated financial reporting for so-called 'intermediate' unions, and dramatically reduced conflict-of-interest reporting.

"Such actions benefit Big Labor, but undercut the interests of Americans who are forced to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

"How does making it easier for corrupt union officials to get away with mismanagement and fraud help working people? That's not an easy question to answer, but John Lund should be given the opportunity to try." 



**Wisconsin School For Workers**

John Lund, U.S. DOL Director of the Office of Labor-Management Standards  
Currently on leave from the School for Workers at UW-Madison  
Former Director for the now-defunct Pacific Northwest Labor School

John Lund has held jobs at the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Operating Engineers union.

CREDIT: WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR WORKERS (LUND PHOTO)

Until recently, John Lund furnished union officials with tips about how to navigate around U.S. Labor Department

audits. Now Mr. Lund oversees the financial reporting and disclosure of many of his former clients!

# Obama Bureaucrat Tells Boeing Where to Expand

## *Company Prodded to Abandon New Aircraft Plant in Right Work State*

To a rational observer, it's obvious that the antics of the strike-happy union bosses at Boeing's West Coast facilities over the past few decades have been detrimental to the interests of the aerospace company's rank-and-file domestic employees as well as its shareholders.

Since 1975, International Association of Machinists (IAM/AFL-CIO) union bosses have ordered employees at Boeing's Washington State and Oregon facilities out on strike five times. The most recent strike, in 2008, lasted 58 days and cost the company \$1.8 billion.

In a highly competitive, globalized industry like aircraft production, such costly labor stoppages put Boeing jobs at risk. The potential harm to workers is far greater than any economic gain they could possibly reap from a strike.

### **Obama NLRB's Top Lawyer: Sensible Business Decision Driven by 'Anti-Union Animus'**

Boeing managers long accepted IAM boss-instigated strikes as a cost of doing business. However, in 2009, having failed to secure a no-strike deal with the union, Boeing finally moved to address this chronic problem by locating a new aircraft production line in Right to Work South Carolina.

Boeing executives knew that a majority of their current employees in South Carolina had opted against union monopoly bargaining. The new plant's availability for production during a strike would mitigate the company's revenue losses.

If Boeing is allowed to proceed with this plan in peace, its employees, union and nonunion alike, as well as its shareholders will surely benefit from an investment making strikes far less likely and less costly if they occur.

Unfortunately, Lafe Solomon, the man President Obama has selected to be the top lawyer for the powerful National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), doesn't intend to let Boeing open its now-already-built, \$2 billion 787 Dreamliner plant in North Charleston, S.C.

Nor does Mr. Solomon, whose nomination has yet to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, intend to let the 1000 employees Boeing has already hired for the plant to start working and collecting paychecks.



CREDIT: DANIEL ROSENBAUM/NEW YORK TIMES

**With his recent attack on the freedom of employees and firms to locate in Right to Work states, Acting National Labor**

**Relations Board General Counsel Lafe Solomon has illustrated why his agency must be defunded.**

In an extraordinary complaint filed April 20, Acting NLRB General Counsel Solomon insisted that Boeing's eminently sensible move to expand production in a Right to Work state so as to cut the cost to customers, employees and shareholders of disruptive IAM strikes was driven by "anti-union animus" and illegal.

Mr. Solomon's complaint asked an NLRB administrative law judge to stop Boeing's South Carolina production. Even *New York Times* labor reporter Steven Greenhouse, a relentless apologist for compulsory unionism, acknowledged that the general counsel's move was "highly unusual for the federal government."

### **Solomon Power Grab Underscores Need To Defund NLRB**

The fact is, Mr. Solomon's attempt to force Boeing to move its second line of 787 Dreamliners from Right to Work South Carolina to forced-unionism Washington State has from the beginning been highly controversial.

On April 28, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson and his counterparts in eight other Right to Work states sent a strongly worded letter to Mr. Solomon urging him to withdraw the complaint.

"General Counsel Solomon's assault against employees and businesses in

Right to Work states, launched at IAM union bosses' behest, may or may not ultimately prevail at the NLRB and in the federal court system," said Greg Mourad, the National Right to Work Committee's legislative director.

"Regardless of how it unfolds, this power grab underscores the danger of putting implementation of federal labor laws that are already strongly biased against the individual employee's Right to Work in the hands of politically appointed ideologues like Lafe Solomon.

"Back in February, the Committee supported an appropriations amendment by pro-Right to Work Congressman Tom Price [R-Ga.] that would have completely defunded the NLRB for the rest of this fiscal year.

"Because 60 Big Labor-appeasing GOP representatives joined with all Democrats present and voting in opposition to the Price Amendment, it failed, 176-250.

"All House members, Democrats and Republicans, who opposed the Price Amendment were responsible, wittingly or not, for helping Lafe Solomon do his dirty work last month.

"The Solomon power grab should make it clear to all elected officials who profess to support the Right to Work principle why the NLRB must be defunded before it does even more damage." 📢



# Forced Unionism Hurts Employees

Continued from page 8

been in 1999. The increase for the 22 states that now have Right to Work laws on the books was 20.0%, due to millions of young people and their children 'voting with their feet' for Right to Work in recent years.

"But New Hampshire and 10 other forced-unionism states actually saw declines in their young-adult populations. And Census data show these declines were overwhelmingly the result of out-migration from forced-unionism states, and not other factors such as disparate birth rates in previous decades.

"For example, in 1975, 1979 and 1983 combined, just 36.8% of all births nationwide occurred in states that now have Right to Work laws. But by 2009, 40.7% of all 25-34 year-olds lived in these states."

As powerful as the economic case for a New Hampshire Right to Work law is, and as determined as the citizens' movement to pass one is, it seems nothing can dissuade union-label Gov. John Lynch from using his veto pen on H.B.474.

Mr. Lynch relied heavily on Big Labor's forced dues-fueled political support to win the Granite State governorship for the first time in 2004.

Last year, the union political machine ran at full throttle to secure him a fourth two-year term, even as dozens and dozens of pro-forced unionism legislators in New Hampshire went down to defeat.

Ever since H.B.474 was first debated and voted on in the state House this winter, Mr. Lynch has publicly parroted union-boss propaganda about the legislation and vowed to veto it.

## Strong Legislative Leadership May Make the Difference

As a consequence of Mr. Lynch's venomous opposition, in the face of overwhelming support for the Right to Work principle among his constituents as well as in the Legislature, House and Senate veto overrides are almost certainly the only way H.B.474 can become law this year.

"Once Gov. Lynch vetoes H.B.474, both legislative chambers will have to pass it again, with the support of at least two-thirds of those present and voting, for it to become law over his veto," explained Mr. Mix.

"Under any circumstances, that's a

tall order.

"However, a Right to Work veto override may happen in New Hampshire this year, thanks both to the effectiveness of grass-roots lobbyists in the state and the strong leadership of key elected officials.

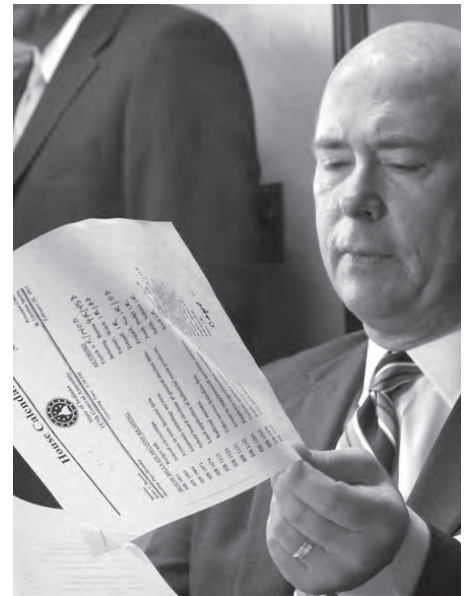
"For example, just before this month's Newsletter went to press, New Hampshire House Speaker William O'Brien [R-Mont Vernon] was publicly vowing to make a 'strong push to find the votes to nullify' the governor's veto threat, as *Foster's Daily Democrat* [Dover, N.H.] reported April 25.

"Mr. O'Brien has refused to let himself be intimidated by the governor or the union hierarchy.

"His commitment to principle offers a refreshing contrast to the opportunism of the House speaker in another state that was a top Right to Work battleground this year.

"In Indiana, majorities of legislators in both chambers have signaled they are ready to vote for a Right to Work law. And GOP Gov. Mitch Daniels admits that Indiana's lack of a Right to Work law is hurting its economy. Nevertheless, he decided months ago, for reasons he has yet to adequately explain, that he did not want Right to Work to pass this year.

"Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma [Indianapolis], despite having once told Right to Work supporters he



CREDIT: CHARLIE NYE/THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

**Indiana House Speaker Brian Bosma sided with Gov. Mitch Daniels against pro-Right to Work citizens.**

would do everything in his power to pass a forced-dues ban as soon as he got a chance, quickly fell in line with Mr. Daniels.

"Mr. Bosma kept Indiana's 2011 Right to Work Bill bottled up in committee until late February, the last day before all measures that had not been approved by the entire House would automatically die.

"That made it remarkably easy for Big Labor politicians to kill the measure, and explains why Indiana isn't America's 23rd Right to Work state today." 📢



CREDIT: BRADY CARLSON/NHPR

**New Hampshire's pro-Right to Work House speaker, William O'Brien (R-Mont Vernon), has vowed to make a**

**strong push to secure enough votes in his chamber to override an all-but-inevitable veto of H.B.474.**

# Can Big Labor Governor's Veto Be Overridden?

## *New Hampshire Battles to Become the 23rd Right to Work State*

Time was when New Hampshire had the reputation, largely justified, of being an island of brisk economic expansion among the generally slow-growing New England states.

Unfortunately for Granite State citizens, in recent years, several key indicators show that New Hampshire's economic performance has been poor by any standard.

For example, from 2000 to 2010, personal income as reported by the U.S. Commerce Department grew by less in New Hampshire than it did in 44 of the other 49 states.

Adjusted for inflation according to the U.S. Labor Department's consumer price index, aggregate personal income in New Hampshire grew by just 8.4%, barely more than half the national average of 15.7%.

However, thousands and thousands of freedom-loving New Hampshire citizens who have banded together in recent years are now close to making a

policy change that, judging by experience, will give a major boost to their state's future income and private-sector job growth.

These citizens' goal this spring is to make New Hampshire America's 23rd Right to Work state by overriding Big Labor Gov. John Lynch's (D) veto with two-thirds majority votes in both chambers of the Legislature in Concord.

### **Bottom 18 States in Income Growth Allow Compulsory Unionism**

On April 20, the New Hampshire state Senate voted 16-8 to adopt H.B.474, which would prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to join or pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union.

The New Hampshire House had previously approved H.B.474, but since the Senate modified the Right to Work legislation before passing it, it

has to return to the lower chamber before it can be sent to Gov. John Lynch's (D) desk.

Early this month, the House is expected to adopt the Senate-amended version of H.B.474 by a wide margin.

"The lopsided legislative votes this year in favor of prohibiting forced union dues are occurring in large part thanks to the persistent and thorough lobbying efforts of New Hampshire citizens," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"And the 16,500 National Committee members in New Hampshire, as well as members of the regional group New England Citizens for Right to Work, are the driving force behind the pro-H.B.474 lobbying program.

"Restoring the personal freedom of the estimated 68,000 employees throughout New Hampshire who are forced to pay union dues as a job condition is the direct and primary purpose of this legislation.

"At the same time, of all the measures New Hampshire legislators are considering this year, H.B.474 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 economic growth.

"The latest data bear out these economists.

"Fourteen of the 22 Right to Work states experienced real 2000-2010 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."

### **Eleven Non-Right to Work States Suffered Young- Adult Population Declines**

Mr. Mix continued: "An even more telling sign of New Hampshire's economic malaise is the 15.7% decline in the number of young adults aged 25-34 living in the state in 2009, as compared to a decade earlier.

"Nationwide, there were 9.6% more 25-34 year-olds in 2009 than there had

### **States With Dwindling Young-Adult Populations, 1999-2009**

State	1999 population, aged 25-34	2009 population, aged 25-34	% decline
Vermont*	83	69	-16.9%
New Hampshire*	178	150	-15.7%
Michigan*	1362	1203	-11.7%
Maine*	166	150	-9.6%
Massachusetts*	939	856	-8.8%
Rhode Island*	144	132	-8.3%
Connecticut*	446	411	-7.8%
Ohio*	1532	1478	-3.5%
Pennsylvania*	1570	1538	-2.0%
West Virginia*	226	225	-0.4%
Maryland*	760	757	-0.4%

Non-Right to Work states are asterisked.  
All population totals in thousands.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

By 2009, there were 20.0% more 25-34 year-olds in Right to Work states than there had been in 1999. Meanwhile, the

young-adult populations in 11 forced-unionism states, including New Hampshire, actually declined.

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