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'Naked Power Grab' Threatens Right to Work

Majority of Senators Obey Big Labor, Opt to Ignore Chamber Rules

Among the major Capitol Hill victories won by pro-Right to Work Americans over the past half-a-century, relatively few would have been possible were it not for the availability of the "extended debate" weapon in the U.S. Senate.

Because of the enormous clout of the forced dues-fueled union political machine, there have been many times since the founding of the National Right to Work Committee in 1955 when Big Labor controlled majorities in both chambers of Congress and had an ideological ally in the White House.

In 1965 and 1966, for example, union lobbyists seemed to have the skids greased for adoption of legislation repealing Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. Repeal would have gutted every single state Right to Work law in the U.S.

And as recently as 2009, Big Labor had lined up congressional majorities and then-freshly elected President Barack Obama behind the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill. This scheme would have helped union bosses corral millions of additional workers and small businesses under union monopoly bargaining.

Of course, 14(b) repeal, the "card-check" bill and a series of union power grabs that came in between were all very unpopular with the public.

But that fact alone would not have prevented these measures from passing. It was the ability of Right to Work supporters, under Senate rules, to keep an extended debate going with the help of as few as 41 out of 100 senators that made the difference, time and again.

CREDIT: DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

Appeals courts that have refused to countenance unconstitutional schemes to assist Big Labor were directly targeted by Harry Reid (pictured) last month. Legislative opposition to forced unionism may be next.

'Top Union Bosses Have Long Wanted to Bar . . . Extended Senate Debates'

"Extended debates, otherwise known as filibusters, enable Right to Work advocates and other grass-roots citizen groups to block special-interest legislation until an alerted public can defeat it directly," explained Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's why top union bosses have long wanted to bar completely extended Senate debates.

"If either Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [Nev.] or more than a tiny handful of the other members of his Democrat caucus cared a fig about following well-established procedures in their chamber, this would be impossible to do without substantial bi-partisan support.

"That's because, under a rule the entire Senate agreed to at the beginning of the 2013-2014 Congress, it requires a two-thirds majority, or 67 members if all are present and voting, to end debate on a proposal to change the chamber rules so that the proposal itself can be voted on.

"The two-thirds vote requirement for rule changes, a provision of Rule XXII, has been adopted by the Senate in every Congress since it was first approved in 1917.

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Big Labor Still Not Satisfied

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"Having neither the votes nor the moxie to suspend Rule XXII, Harry Reid, 50 other Big Labor Democrats, and one Big Labor-appeasing Republican collectively opted to ignore it.

"By a 52-48 vote, Mr. Reid and his cohorts simply announced that for the rest of the current Congress they would ignore the Rule XXII provision enabling a minority of 41 senators to delay confirmation of presidential nominations by conducting an extended debate.

"They made one exception by promising to continue to obey Rule XXII with regard to nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court. Of course, they had no plausible justification for ignoring Rule XXII most of the time, but occasionally heeding it."

In 2005, when Vice President Joe Biden was still a Delaware Democrat senator and a member of the minority caucus on Capitol Hill, he denounced the "nuclear option" that was ultimately deployed by Mr. Reid in November as a "naked power grab."

Communications Workers Union Czar: 'We've Spent a Lot of Years Working on Senate Rules'

"Joe Biden and other union-label Democrats were without a doubt acting opportunistically, not out of principle, when they opposed eviscerating extended debates eight years ago, but what they said back then was correct," commented Mr. Mix.

"Regardless of who holds the White House and congressional majorities, extended Senate debates have been an important check on government excesses throughout American history. That check has not yet been completely obliterated, but its future viability is in grave doubt."

The most important immediate object Mr. Reid had in going after extended debates this fall was the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

At the beginning of 2013, a three-judge panel on the D.C. Circuit enraged the Obama Administration and its congressional allies by unanimously finding that three putative "recess" appointments the President had made to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) were unconstitutional and illegal.

As a consequence of this ruling, pro-forced unionism radicals Sharon Block and Richard Griffin eventually lost their seats on the NLRB.

Even though Mr. Reid simultaneously steamrolled Senate Republicans to ensure continued Big Labor domination of the agency, he and Mr. Obama are determined to stop the D.C. Circuit and other appeals courts from interfering with their agenda again.

Because of Mr. Reid's pulling of the "nuclear" trigger, he will soon have rammed through the confirmations of three Big Labor activist judges for vacancies on the already underworked D.C. Circuit, making it far less likely this court will rule against union bigwigs in the future.

No wonder top union bosses like Communications Workers of America union czar Larry Cohen are overjoyed. "We've spent a lot of years working on Senate rules. This is finally a significant step," Mr. Cohen told the *Huffington Post*.

Power Grab 'Should Help' President 'Achieve Key Second-Term Priorities'

By largely eliminating the possibility of meaningful judicial oversight during President Obama's last three years in office, Mr. Reid has performed an enormous service for the White House and for Big Labor. As a Washington *Post* news headline drily noted, the power grab "should help" Mr. Obama "achieve" his "key second-term priorities."

And yet, this partial decimation of extended Senate debates is certainly not enough to satisfy the union hierarchy.

What top union bosses from AFL-CIO czar Richard Trumka on down really want, as union mouthpiece Tim Noah explained in a November 22 MSNBC commentary, is to "eliminate" extended Senate debates "in every instance," that is, with regard to legislation as well as to all types of judicial nominations.

Mr. Noah added that the November power grab was, from his perspective, "a good start," and gleefully predicted that all extended debates would "soon be a thing of the past."

"As much as it pains me to say it, I am inclined to agree with Tim Noah that, now that he has taken the first step, Harry Reid will not hesitate to ignore completely Rule XXII's authorization for extended debates," said Mr. Mix.

"That means that, in order to stop forced-unionism schemes like mandatory 'card checks' from becoming law in the future, the Right to Work movement must ensure its level of support among Washington, D.C., politicians never again goes as low as it was as recently as 2009. That won't be easy. But it seems it will be necessary."

Since the mid-1960's, when Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-Ill., center) successfully led an extended debate to protect states' freedom to prohibit forced union dues, this tool has been indispensable for Right to Work allies.

Obama NLRB 'All in Place,' 'Ready to Go'

Board Poised to Make Corralling Workers Into Unions Even Easier

It was in November that Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and his cohorts made it the U.S. Senate's official policy to ignore longstanding chamber rules allowing extended debates over all presidential nominees except potential U.S. Supreme Court justices (see this month's cover story).

But an almost equally brazen power grab nearly happened back in July. Last summer, Mr. Reid came within a hair of effectively prohibiting extended debates over the President's executive-branch nominations.

Ultimately, he got what he wanted without ever having to pull the trigger on extended debates, which according to Senate rules reaffirmed as recently as January 2013 may be sustained with the support of 41 or more out of 100 senators.

Reid Promises Have Short Shelf Life

On July 16, a handful of weak-kneed establishment GOP senators cut a deal with Mr. Reid.

They promised not to support extended debates against a number of Obama nominees, including the President's picks for all five National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) slots, and Mr. Reid vowed not to strip them, for the time being, of the ability to conduct extended debates against any nominee.

Three months later, Mr. Reid's part of the bargain was, not surprisingly, already defunct.

But the five Senate-confirmed Obama appointees on the NLRB are, as NLRB Chairman Mark Gaston Pearce told a conference of union-label lawyers gathered in New Orleans November 8, "all in place" and "ready to go."

Until he was originally appointed to the NLRB by Mr. Obama in 2010, Mr. Pearce was a union lawyer in private practice in Buffalo, N.Y.

Two New Appointees Picked 'In Consultation With' AFL-CIO Czar Richard Trumka

And two of the new NLRB members handpicked by the President and rubber-stamped by the Senate have similarly partisan Big Labor backgrounds.

Until her appointment, Nancy Schiffer was an AFL-CIO associate general counsel.

CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Until President Obama installed him on the NLRB in 2010, Chairman Mark Pearce was a New York union lawyer.

And Kent Hirozawa is an ex-union lawyer who was Mr. Pearce's chief counsel prior to becoming a board member.

According to a report appearing in *Politico* this past summer, the White House chose both of these rabid proponents of compulsory unionism for NLRB posts "in consultation with AFL-CIO head Richard Trumka."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad observed:

"During the first five years of the Obama Administration, both a lack of confirmed NLRB appointees and federal court resistance to its power grabs hindered the agency from imposing sweeping changes to decades-old procedures under which Big Labor may obtain monopoly-bargaining power over workers."

Union Bosses Want NLRB to Give Them Access to Union-Free Workers' Phone Numbers

Mr. Mourad continued: "Now, because extended Senate debates no longer inhibit in any way President Obama's ability to pack the NLRB and federal district and appellate courts with Big Labor activist bureaucrats and judges, the regulatory rewrite of federal labor law is very likely to move ahead at full speed.

"Among the proposals the NLRB is likely to ram through soon are new rules mandating that employers hand over employee phone numbers and e-mail addresses to union organizers at the outset of each certification campaign.

"Fortunately, the Republican House leaders who have been sharply critical of the Obama NLRB's excesses and will control Congress's lower chamber at least until January 2015 retain the power to rein in this rogue agency."

Mr. Mourad vowed to work closely this winter with Capitol Hill allies to see how Congress's power over the federal purse strings can be used to stop NLRB bureaucrats in their tracks.

"House leaders who are on the record as forced-unionism foes can refuse to pass legislation funding the NLRB unless the agency's attacks on Right to Work come to a halt," Mr. Mourad explained. "The only question is whether GOP leaders have the will."

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‘Single-Party Elections’ in the Workplace?

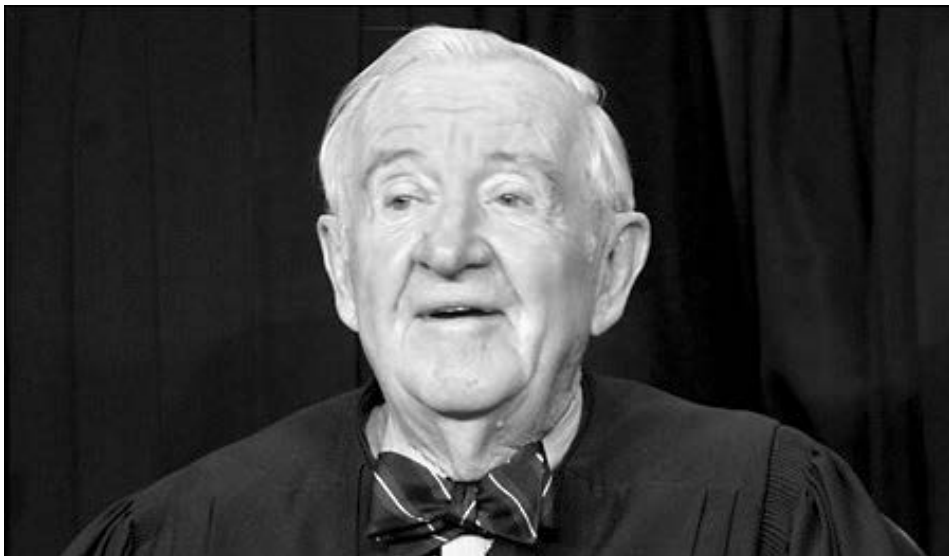
Obama Labor Department Schemes to Help Union Bosses Run Unopposed

As regular readers of the National Right to Work Newsletter know all too well, federal labor law is intensely biased in favor of the collectivization of employees by union officials.

But the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) does at least specify that union organizers can acquire monopoly power to negotiate the pay, benefits, and other working conditions of all the employees in a group only under certain conditions.

Only if the majority of those casting votes in an election support unionization, or if the majority of all employees in the federally-designated “bargaining unit” sign union “authorization” cards, may a single union become the so-called “exclusive representative.”

The NLRA also tacitly recognizes that, before employees collectively decide whether or not they will be unionized, they have, as then-Justice John Paul Stevens put it in a 2008 majority opinion for the U.S. Supreme Court, an “underlying right to receive information opposing unionization.”



CREDIT: MELINA MARA/WASHINGTON POST

As then-Justice John Paul Stevens once wrote, federal labor law recognizes workers’ “underlying right to receive information opposing unionization.” But the Obama Labor Department is now out to gut that right.

Pending Rule’s Clear Intent Is to Control What Employees Hear

Arguably, the protection of employees’ right to hear both sides of the story regarding union representation is the primary purpose of NLRA Sec. 8(c). It protects all speech supporting or opposing unionization, including speech by employers, managers, and their agents, as long as it “contains no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit.”

Many employers whose employees are being urged to unionize believe their employees should have the chance to hear all the key relevant facts before they make a collective decision.

However, federal bureaucratic regulations and court decisions have for decades tightly limited what employers may say under such circumstances, despite the seemingly broad protection afforded by Sec. 8(c).

Unless they can receive expert legal advice, therefore, even employers who care a great deal about their employees’ freedom may well opt to say nothing.

Unfortunately, President Obama’s Labor Department is now attacking employers’ ability to receive such advice. National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King sharply criticized the so-called “persuader rule” that the Labor Department recently announced it would release in its final version this coming March.

“American employees ought to be able to learn about the possible downsides of unionization without their employer’s unduly risking massive federal fines and other penalties,” said Ms. King.

“Up to now, presidential administrations of all stripes have accepted that, at least in principle, employees facing a unionization drive have a right to hear what their employer has to say.”

No Other Administration Has Adopted Obama Team’s Strained Reading of 1959 Law

Ms. King continued:

“That’s why, since the 1959 Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act [LMRDA] was adopted, every administration has interpreted it to require employers to file extensive paperwork with the federal government regarding their labor consultants only if those consultants communicate directly with employees.

“Even the aggressively pro-forced unionism Carter and Clinton Administrations never interpreted it to impose burdensome paperwork requirements on employers who only seek expert advice as they or their managers communicate with employees, orally and/or in writing, about what unionization could mean.

“However, under the Obama Labor Department’s proposed new ‘persuader’ rule, the LMRDA’s ‘advice’ exemption would be effectively nullified. If an employer hires any individual or firm for virtually any kind of assistance during a unionization campaign, reams of paperwork will be required.

“The cost of hiring and retaining qualified staff to fill out complicated disclosure forms that most small businesses normally don’t have to file would suffice to deter many from seeking any advice. And without expert advice, most will likely deem it prudent to go mute when union organizers call.

“‘Single-party elections,’ in which the rules are rigged to ensure only one side’s message gets heard, are regarded as normal under despotic governments in places like China and Cuba, but they have never been acceptable in America. Now is not the time to start.”

Ms. King vowed that she and other Committee leaders would mobilize Right to Work’s 2.8 million members this winter to turn up the pressure on Congress to stop Obama Labor Secretary Tom Perez’ “persuader rule” scheme before it takes effect.

Wisconsin Union Dons Pursue Judicial Bailout

Government Union Bosses Press State Supreme Court to Gut Act 10

Government union bosses haven't been able to overturn Wisconsin's Act 10, which restricts their compulsory-unionism privileges, at the ballot box. And now it seems increasingly unlikely they will be able to overturn it in the courts.

Nearly three years ago, Gov. Scott Walker (R) infuriated union officials when he successfully advanced the measure now known as Act 10. Act 10 abolished forced union dues for teachers and many other public employees and also greatly narrowed the scope of government union monopoly bargaining in other ways.

In June 2012, Wisconsinites went to the polls in special "recall" elections orchestrated by Organized Labor.

Despite spending millions of dollars, mostly forced dues and fees exacted from workers, union bigwigs failed to unseat Gov. Walker and Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch in retaliation for their drafting and winning legislative approval of Act 10.

In the November 2012 general elections, Wisconsin voters again rebuked the union brass, handing the Republican leaders responsible for Act 10 an 18-15 majority in the state Senate and retaining a large GOP majority in the state House.

It's Constitutional to Ban Municipal Negotiations With Monopolistic Unions

In addition to pouring vast sums of forced-dues money into electoral politics to punish Act 10 proponents, union officials have also repeatedly gone to court to get back all of their monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues power.

But the future of Big Labor efforts to use the legal system to kill Act 10 is increasingly cloudy.

This September, U.S. District Judge William Conley handed union lawyers seeking to overturn, on constitutional grounds, the core Act 10 restrictions on monopolistic government unions the latest in a series of federal court defeats.

The First Amendment does protect government union bosses' right to speak to government employers as if they represented the interests of all front-line employees, Judge Conley acknowledged.

But no First Amendment rights are affected when a state bans municipalities from negotiating with monopolistic unions, or drastically shortens the list of issues that may be negotiated.

This October, Dane County Circuit Judge John Markson similarly ruled that Act 10 violates neither the free-speech/free-association provisions in Article I, Sections 3 and 4 of the Wisconsin Constitution, nor the equal-protection provision in Article I, Section 1.

Big Labor Activist Judge Airily Dismissed Findings Of Multiple Other Courts

The fact that Big Labor's legal crusade against Act 10 still represents a significant threat to this pro-individual employee freedom and pro-taxpayer law roughly 33 months after it was signed by Mr. Walker is largely due to the legal shenanigans of Juan Colas, another Dane County Circuit judge.

In a case he first ruled on in September 2012 and has since arrogantly tried to enforce statewide, *Madison Teachers, Inc. v. Walker*, Judge Colas has eagerly accepted union lawyers' arguments and airily dismissed the findings of other courts, both state and federal.

But on November 21, a 5-2 state Supreme Court majority dealt a stern rebuke to Judge Colas by vacating a contempt order the union-label judge had issued blocking the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) from enforcing Act 10 in any workplace employing local public servants anywhere in the state.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen cautioned that November's Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling does not address the fundamental question of whether or not Judge Colas erred in finding key portions of Act 10 to be unconstitutional.

Even though it is likely all seven justices have already made up their minds, no final decision in *Madison Teachers* is expected until this spring.

"The 5-2 decision vacating the Colas contempt order against WERC augurs well," Mr. Leen commented. "It would be unusual for a court that was about to strike down a law to act so decisively against a lower court order blocking the law's enforcement."

In the *Madison Teachers* case, National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys have teamed up with the Milwaukee-based Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty to represent the interests of educators who don't wish to be corralled into a union.

Thousands of Committee members in Wisconsin, who helped mobilize the grass-roots support to make Act 10's passage possible in 2011, have a big stake in this case.

CREDIT: LUKE KEAPPROTH/WISCONSINWATCH.ORG

Union-label Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson will surely vote to uphold Judge Juan Colas' (inset) anti-Act 10 ruling. But it seems probable she will be in the court's minority.

Yet Another Obamacare Giveaway For Big Labor?

President's Allies May Be Exempted From Burdensome ACA Tax

At the very beginning of 2014, an array of key components of the so-called "Affordable Care Act" that was adopted in early 2010 will finally take effect. And over the past couple of months, countless ordinary citizens are learning for the first time, to their dismay, exactly what the impact of the ACA, otherwise known as ObamaCare, will be for them.

A November 17 *Wall Street Journal* editorial provided a sampling of the bad news: "Millions of Americans are losing their plans and paying more for health care, and doctors are being forced out of insurance networks . . . ."

But amidst all the late 2013 ObamaCare gloom, "a lucky few" have something to cheer about.

The Monday before Thanksgiving, the Obama Administration issued a proposed rule to exempt, starting in 2015, Big Labor-controlled health-insurance plans commonly referred to as Taft-Hartley plans from ObamaCare's reinsurance tax on self-insured health-care plans.

Taft-Hartley plans are just one of an array of self-insured health-care plans offered by businesses, charities, and religious organizations. But the Administration's proposed exemption applies, in effect, only to union-label Taft-Hartley plans.

Big Labor 'Owns' ObamaCare

"Enabling union plans to dodge the ACA's reinsurance tax, which is expected to raise $13 billion in 2015 and 2016 alone, would give union bosses yet another tool to pressure employers into turning over their employees to Big Labor," charged National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Rather than fork over thousands of dollars more a year in taxes under the ACA, small businesses could allow a union to come in and wield its monopoly-bargaining power to negotiate a tax-exempt Taft-Hartley plan.

"Meanwhile, self-insured businesses and nonprofits that continued to stand up for their employees' freedom to speak for themselves on matters concerning their pay and benefits would get stuck with paying even higher reinsurance taxes, because the total revenue raised would have to remain the same."

Of course, the main reason the Obama Administration is now openly seeking an ACA tax carve-out for Big Labor that will be unavailable to anyone else is because union bosses have for months been loudly demanding that they get one.

CREDIT: FOX NEWS CHANNEL

Since ObamaCare was first introduced in Congress in 2009, Mark Mix has denounced it as a Trojan Horse for forced unionism and called for the removal of all of its Big Labor special-interest provisions.

And union bigwigs clearly don't regard it as unseemly for them to pressure the President and his team to manipulate ObamaCare's tax provisions to their benefit and at others' expense. Perhaps they reason that, after all, they "own" the law.

Indeed, it was top union bosses who spent a billion dollars or more, mostly money from forced dues-laden union treasuries, to make Barack Obama President and elect a Congress that would rubber-stamp his agenda in 2008.

And it was Big Labor that spent additional vast sums of forced-dues money on lobbying efforts to ensure ObamaCare would be enacted in 2010 despite intense public opposition.

And it was the union hierarchy that again dug deep into its forced-dues treasuries to prevent ObamaCare's repeal by getting the Obama-Biden ticket reelected in 2012.

Committee to Mobilize Support For Measure to Block Special Tax Exemption

From the time ObamaCare was originally introduced in Congress in 2009, Mr. Mix and other Right to Work leaders have denounced it as a Trojan Horse for forced unionism and called for the removal of all of its Big Labor special-interest provisions.

Thanks in part to the Committee's efforts, ObamaCare supporters had to drop certain provisions promoting the forced unionization of the health-care industry before the scheme could become law.

However, the law as adopted remained full of handouts to Big Labor. For example, one little-discussed ObamaCare provision furnished $10 billion in bailout money for mismanaged union health-benefit funds.

"The recently-concocted reinsurance tax exemption for Big Labor's Taft-Hartley plans is just the latest Obamacare giveway to the President's union-boss sugardaddies," said Mr. Mix.

"As long as the ACA in its current form, or anything remotely like it, remains law, it will be extraordinarily difficult to stop union officials from exploiting the enormous regulatory discretion it hands bureaucrats to further their institutional interests.

"However, passage of the Union Tax Fairness Act, or S.1724, would be a step in the right direction. It would block the Obama Administration from granting any special exemptions from the ACA reinsurance tax." Mr. Mix vowed that in 2014 the Committee would help mobilize U.S. Senate support for this measure.

Right to Work Worth Fighting For

Continued from page 8

disagreed, either "somewhat" or "strongly."

But despite the lopsided popular support for Right to Work laws, and despite all the evidence of their economic benefits, passing a state prohibition on forced union dues is never easy.

Last year, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research estimated that union officials rake in a total of roughly $14 billion a year from employees in mostly compulsory dues, fees and assessments. And Big Labor deploys a large share of that money for politics and lobbying.

If freedom-loving citizens are to counter successfully the might of the union political machine and prevail upon their elected officials to adopt a state Right to Work law, they must first be mobilized.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia Represent Right To Work Opportunities

Currently, grass-roots efforts to pass Right to Work legislation in the remaining forced-unionism states are being assisted by regional groups such as the Keystone State Right to Work Committee and the West Virginia Right to Work Committee.

This winter, these two groups will be mobilizing pro-Right to Work citizens in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to contact their legislators with thousands of postcards, petitions, letters, and phone calls urging them to push for roll-call votes on forced-dues repeal legislation.

Lobbying efforts to get legislators on the record regarding Right to Work protections for employees are also gaining momentum in Illinois, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire and Kentucky.

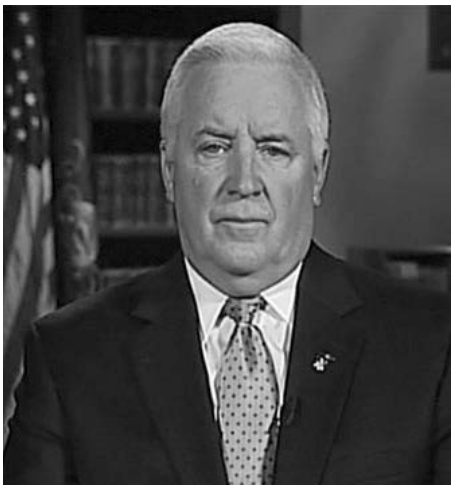
In state after state, there is a growing recognition among elected officials that perpetuating the forced-unionism status quo will result, at best, in substandard economic performance.

"States like Pennsylvania and Illinois have long had reputations as Big Labor strongholds," commented Mr. Mix. "Indeed, union bosses remain very powerful in Harrisburg and Springfield, largely because of their government-backed domination of public-sector employment.

"However, when a state's real private-sector compensation gains lag far behind the national average for year after year even as the national average itself remains quite unimpressive, then its citizens eventually get fed up.

"Once a critical mass of ordinary people becomes determined to change the way their state operates, union special interests can't stop them.

"That's why, as we head into 2014, the pressure on state politicians is mounting, not just in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Illinois, Colorado, Delaware, New Hampshire and Kentucky, but also in Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Minnesota and elsewhere."



CREDIT: ABCNEWSGO.COM

Pennsylvania GOP Gov. Tom Corbett is coming under grass-roots pressure to support Right to Work.

Laws' 'Fundamental Purpose Is to Protect the Employee's Personal Freedom of Choice'

Mr. Mix added that, as impressive as Right to Work states' relative job and income growth have been, the primary motivation for supporters of state efforts to pass additional bans on forced union dues is to do what's fair and just.

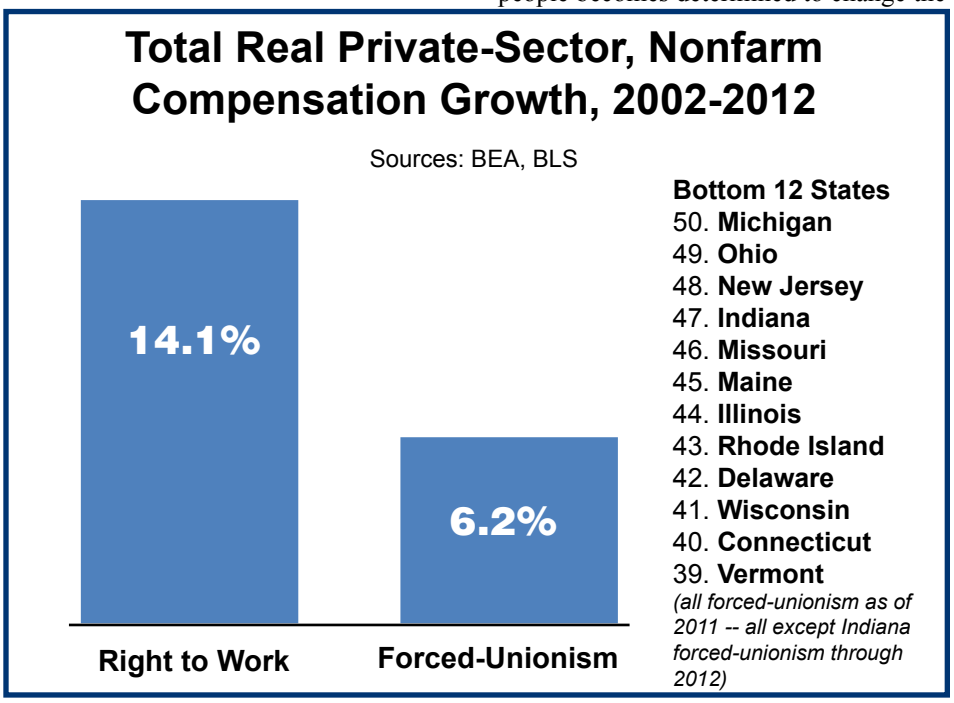
"The Right to Work is a matter of morality as well as economics. Right to Work laws' fundamental purpose is to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice," he said.

"Commitment to principle helps explain why so many National Committee members who live in a state that already has a Right to Work law are eager to offer their assistance to efforts to pass such laws in the remaining 26 forced-unionism states.

"No American should be forced to join or bankroll a union as a condition of employment.

"In order to realize this goal, the Committee continues to work for passage of national Right to Work legislation [H.R.946 and S.204] repealing all federal labor-law provisions that authorize forced union dues and fees.

"Effectively, that would make all 50 states Right to Work states."



All of the 12 bottom-ranking states for 2002-2012 employee compensation growth lacked Right to Work laws until Indiana finally adopted one in 2012. Overall, forced-unionism growth was 7.9 percentage points lower.

Compensation Growth Lags in Forced-Dues States

Activists Push For Recorded Votes on State Right to Work Measures

Even union bosses and their apologists sometimes grudgingly admit that long-term private-sector job growth in states that have Right to Work laws on the books far outpaces job growth in states that lack such pro-employee statutes.

This fact is indeed hard to deny. From 1992 to 2012, according to the U.S. Commerce Department, total private-sector employment in states that had Right to Work laws throughout the period soared by 51% -- an increase nearly double that of forced-union-dues states combined.

Over the past decade alone, states that have continuously had Right to Work laws in effect experienced private-sector employment growth more than double the forced-unionism average and nearly half again as great as the national average.

Real Compensation Grew More Than Twice as Much Over Past Decade in Right to Work States

Big Labor tries to downplay the significance of Right to Work states' large, persistent employment-growth advantage by suggesting that the jobs created outside of forced unionism's dominion are "the wrong kind."

Unfortunately for union propagandists, however, Commerce Department data show that Right to Work states also enjoy a large, persistent advantage over forced-unionism states with regard to growth of private-sector employee compensation (including wages, salaries, bonuses and benefits).

Twenty-two of the 24 state Right to Work laws now in effect were adopted more than a decade ago. But the two most recent, Indiana's and Michigan's, took effect in early 2012 and this spring, respectively.

Right to Work statutes and constitutional amendments prohibit forcing employees to join or pay dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union as a condition of employment.

From 2002 to 2012, the inflation-adjusted outlays of private-sector businesses for employee compensation increased by an average of 14.2% in Right to Work states.

That increase is more than double forced-unionism states' combined 6.1% rise over the same period.

CREDIT: JOSHUA TRUJILLO/SEATTLEPI.COM

The forced-dues system foments hate-the-boss class warfare. It also helps Big Labor impose and perpetuate counterproductive and costly work rules. Slower employee compensation growth is a logical consequence.

Six of the eight highest-ranking states for compensation growth are Right to Work states.

But none of the 12 states with the lowest compensation growth had a Right to Work law prior to 2012.

"The forced-union-dues system foments hate-the-boss class warfare in many workplaces. It helps Big Labor impose and perpetuate counterproductive and costly work rules," noted National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"And union bosses funnel a large share of the forced dues and fees they collect through this system into the campaigns of Tax & Spend, regulation-happy state and local politicians.

"It's thus only logical that the forced-unionism system would leave businesses with less money to create jobs or raise pay and benefits for current employees.

"And U.S. Commerce Department and other federal data indicate that's exactly what happens."

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

Even setting aside the ample evidence indicating that forced unionism results in diminished growth in jobs and smaller gains in pay and benefits for employees, Americans overwhelmingly oppose forced unionism in principle.

In fact, a scientific national survey of union members conducted by respected pollster Frank Luntz in 2010 found that 54% "strongly" agreed that workers should "never be forced or coerced to join or pay dues to a union as a condition of employment."

An additional 26% of union members "somewhat" agreed, whereas only 14%

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