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Pro-Right to Work Citizens Deserve a Choice

Survey Program Turns up the Heat on Union-Label Politicians

CREDIT: SUSAN WALSH/AP PHOTO

Although his constituents overwhelmingly support the Right to Work principle, Colorado U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (left) has for years been voting for government-authorized forced unionism in Washington, D.C.

One of the very first votes Colorado politician Mark Udall cast after first taking office as a U.S. senator in early January 2009 concerned the federal policy favoring the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

Just 19 days after Mr. Udall joined Congress's upper chamber, then-U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) banded together with grass-roots opponents of compulsory unionism to secure a recorded floor vote on a pro-Right to Work amendment to S.181, the so-called "Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act."

As National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix said at the time, the Capitol Hill showdown over the DeMint amendment gave Americans a chance to see which senators are for freedom, and which are for coercion.

Big Labor lobbyists carried the day. The amendment was quickly defeated. But repercussions of the vote continue even now.

This year, Mark Udall is one of the 13 senators who publicly cast their ballots to force hardworking Americans to pay union dues or fees just to get a job or keep their job who will finally have to face the judgment of the voters in their home states in order to retain their seats.

Right to Work President Mix commented:

"In order to ensure, to the best of our ability, that Big Labor and Big Labor-appeasing senators who voted to perpetuate compulsory unionism and are up for re-election this year can be accountable to their pro-Right to Work constituents, the Committee is now implementing the federal Survey 2014."

Coloradans Overwhelmingly Oppose Forced Union Dues

At this writing, it appears that up to 10 senators who voted for compulsory unionism in 2009 will face difficult or potentially difficult general election campaigns in order to remain in office.

In addition to Mr. Udall, Mark Begich (Alaska), Kay Hagan (N.C.), Mary Landrieu (La.), and Mark Pryor (Ark.) are among the most vulnerable senators on the ballot this year who back forcing workers to pay union dues or fees just to get or keep a job.

Ms. Hagan, Ms. Landrieu, and Mr. Pryor all represent states that have enacted Right to Work laws. And although Colorado and Alaska have yet to pass such a statute, opposition to compulsory unionism is clearly growing in these states as well.

Indicative of the Centennial State's strong public opposition to forced dues and fees, said Mr. Mix, is the ongoing failure of Big Labor to ram through the Colorado Legislature a measure authorizing any such anti-employee labor policy in the public sector.

"The only reason Colorado's private-sector employees are forced to bankroll

See **Stakes** *page 2*

Stakes Are Extraordinarily High

Continued from page 1

a union as a condition of employment," explained Mr. Mix, "is because federal politicians in Washington, D.C., authorized it.

"State politicians in Denver have always shied away from foisting the same regime on the public sector, because they know voters will punish them severely if they do."

Over the years, both federal and state Right to Work survey programs have become increasingly successful at deterring politicians from granting new coercive powers to Big Labor. But that is not the Committee's ultimate objective.

Committee's Goal Is to Revoke Longstanding Big Labor Privileges

Right to Work members, said Mr. Mix, want a Congress with the "fortitude" to move to take away, even over the objections of a Big Labor President, the forced-unionism powers that union bosses have wielded for more than three-quarters of a century.

"The Committee's Survey 2014," he continued, "is critical for this long-term objective."

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

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

And millions of grass-roots Right to Work supporters are mobilized to lobby candidates to respond to their Right to Work surveys.

"All major-party candidates as well as key significant third-party and independent candidates in every U.S. Senate and House race are asked to participate in the Right to Work survey program," said Mr. Mix.

"And pro-Right to Work citizens in every state where there's a Senate race and every House district are contacted and requested to help turn up the pressure on their candidates to respond to their surveys.

"But the Committee pours the vast majority of its survey resources into and mobilizes far more freedom-loving activists for Senate and House races that are at least potentially close and in which at least one candidate has taken a strong stand in favor of Right to Work.

CREDIT TO: R.J. SANGOSTI/DENVER POST

In early 2013, Rep. Cory Gardner (Colo.) heeded his pro-Right to Work constituents by becoming a cosponsor of federal forced-dues repeal. Now Mr. Gardner is seeking to unseat union-label Sen. Mark Udall.

"We can't be sure at this time, but, contingent on what happens over the next few months, the Committee survey mobilization may well be operating statewide in Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia this year, along with Colorado, Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, and North Carolina."

Senate Nominee in Colorado a Right to Work Cosponsor

The federal Survey 2014 is giving union-label politicians like Mark Udall a choice: pledge to change course and support Right to Work in the future, or face the potential political fallout.

Regardless of their party affiliation, union-label politicians and Big Labor appeasers will have no way to hide this year. This will be especially true when they face opponents like Mr. Udall's, U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner, who have taken strong public stands against forced unionism.

(Mr. Gardner is a cosponsor of H.R.946, the National Right to Work Act, which would revoke Big Labor's license to seize union dues from unwilling private-sector employees in all 50 states.)

"The stakes are extraordinarily high," said Mr. Mix.

"Within the next few months, a National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] made up entirely of members selected by pro-forced unionism President Barack Obama is poised to impose sweeping changes to decades-old procedures under which Big Labor may achieve monopoly control over workers.

"The unmistakable aim of the proposed rules is to make it even easier for Big Labor to corral employees into unions. And the only way Congress can possibly derail this bureaucratic power grab until President Obama leaves the White House in January 2017 is through use of the federal purse strings. The NLRB cannot operate without taxpayers' money.

"But Mark Udall and the other union-label senators seeking re-election this year, including Mark Begich, Kay Hagan, Mary Landrieu, and Mark Pryor, have track records of opposing congressional efforts to rein in Barack Obama's rogue NLRB.

"America needs a Congress that will fight back against the Obama NLRB in 2015, and ultimately it needs a Congress that will strip Big Labor of its illicit forced-dues powers. And the Committee's federal survey can help accomplish both of these objectives."

Right to Work Boosts Manufacturing Growth

Employee Freedom a Vital Component of America's Prosperity

Even before the Great Recession of 2008-2009 brought a long period of consistently low national unemployment rates in the United States to an abrupt end, concerns about a secular employment decline in the manufacturing sector were widespread.

However, as many economists have pointed out, the decline of U.S. manufacturing employment is primarily a result of worldwide output growing faster than demand, rather than the relatively small secular decline in American firms' market share of the worldwide demand for manufactured goods.

In fact, new and revised data from the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) show that, from 2003 to 2013, the country's real manufacturing GDP in "chained" 2009 dollars grew from $1.642 trillion to $1.940 trillion, or 18.1%. Meanwhile, the real overall GDP of the U.S. grew by 16.6%, or just a little over 90% as much.

Nine of the Top 12 States For 2003-2013 Factory Output Gains Are Right to Work

Total 2003-2013 GDP growth in the 22 states that had Right to Work laws on the books throughout the period was 21.5%, significantly greater than the national average and 6.8 percentage points greater than the average for states lacking Right to Work protections throughout the period.

In the manufacturing sector, Right to Work states' growth advantage was even wider.

From 2003 to 2013, Right to Work states' real manufacturing GDP increased by 26.1% -- or almost double the forced-unionism average.

Nine of the 10 states showing the greatest declines in manufacturing GDP lack Right to Work laws. But nine of the 12 states with the greatest manufacturing GDP gains are Right to Work.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen said counterproductive work rules imposed and perpetuated for decades by Big Labor bosses wielding forced-unionism privileges are a key factor behind the state manufacturing GDP data.

"In industry after industry," Mr. Leen explained, "union bosses have negotiated contracts requiring rigid job classifications that waste time and money, ultimately to the detriment of workers' paychecks and job security.

"Starting in the late 1980's, it became increasingly apparent that companies under rigid union monopoly-bargaining rules like the Big Three automakers were being crushed by union-free domestic competition, which is very often based in Right to Work states.

"Within the past few years, manufacturing union bosses have finally responded by grudgingly allowing some reforms of work rules and inefficient health-insurance and pension systems. But for the most part it has been too little, too late."

Nearly Half of America's Factory Output Now Generated In Right to Work States

Mr. Leen continued: "Thanks partly to the adoption of the 23rd and 24th state Right to Work laws by Indiana and Michigan in 2012, a record 47.6% of the entire U.S. manufacturing output last year occurred in states that had prohibited compulsory union dues and fees.

"As recently as 2003, just 36.3% of the manufacturing production in the U.S. occurred in Right to Work states.

"And last year alone, real manufacturing GDP in the now-24 Right to Work states grew by 4.3%, more than double the 1.9% average for forced-unionism states.

"Unlike the factories of America's past, the new facilities springing up in Right to Work states located in Southern, Rocky Mountain and Plains States, and now in the Great Lakes region as well, do not typically employ vast numbers of people.

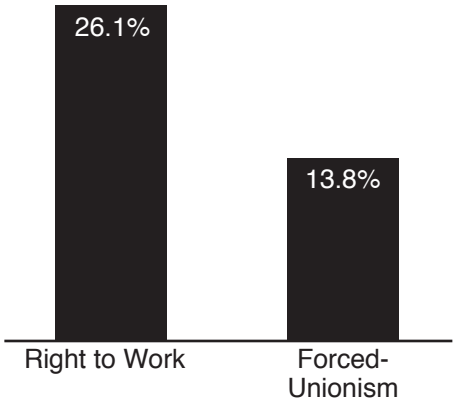
"But the highly productive jobs located in such sites are enabling millions of workers to provide well for themselves and their families, especially when Right to Work states' low aggregate cost of living compared to that of forced-unionism states is taken into account."

Mr. Leen rejected the notion that, because manufacturing provides a significantly smaller share of American (and global) jobs than in the past, it is no longer important:

"The manufacturing sector remains a vital component of our national prosperity. As Commerce Department data show, it is a sector that over the past decade has grown at a significantly faster clip than the economy on the whole.

"And Right to Work states have played an absolutely critical role in enabling this sector to continue growing and prospering."

Real Manufacturing GDP Growth, 2003-2013



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bottom 10 States

50. New Jersey*
49. Pennsylvania*
48. Hawaii*
47. Connecticut*
46. Rhode Island*
45. Arkansas
44. New York*
43. Missouri*
42. Alaska*
41. West Virginia*

(Forced-unionism states are asterisked)

Nine of the 10 bottom-ranking states for manufacturing GDP growth over the past decade lack Right to Work laws.

Overall, Right to Work states' manufacturing GDP growth was nearly double the forced-unionism average.

Big Labor Lawlessness Imperils Portland Jobs

Forced-Unionism Federal Labor Policy Foments Workplace Warfare

Right to Work supporters across America have long understood that monopolistic unionism as promoted by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and other federal statutes undercuts employee productivity.

But in the nearly 80 years that the pro-forced unionism NLRA has been on the books, few observers have described the harmful impact of Big Labor-instigated class warfare in the workplace as vividly as National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Wedekind recently did.

In an 18-page decision issued in late May, the San Francisco judge supplied extraordinarily detailed evidence of how two years ago bosses of the International Longshore Workers Union Local 8 and the ILWU itself commenced ordering illegal employee slowdowns at the Port of Portland in Oregon.

As Mr. Wedekind's opinion explained, longshore union chiefs' motive for allegedly instigating the illegal slowdowns was to protest the assignment of work that involves the plugging, unplugging, and monitoring of refrigerated containers after they are unloaded from vessels to electricians employed by the port.

In order to punish ICTSI Oregon, Inc., the company that operates Terminal 6, the opinion continued, for the assignment of dockside "reefer" work to electricians, ILWU kingpins allegedly began "directing intermittent slowdowns and work stoppages . . . in early June 2012."

According to the judge, ample contemporary evidence indicates longshoremen have indeed "deliberately worked in a less productive manner."

CREDIT: BETH NAKAMURA/THE OREGONIAN

For two years, union bosses have evidently been ordering costly work slowdowns at Oregon's Port of Portland. As a consequence, major shipping firms may ultimately cease making stops at the port.

Local, International Union Bigwigs 'Directed' Illegal Slowdowns, Evidence Indicates

They have operated their cranes "at a reduced speed," refused to "hoist their cranes in 'bypass mode' to discharge high containers," refused to "move two 20-foot containers . . . at a time on older trailers," and driven their trucks "slowly" while taking "long routes around the yard."

As a consequence of the recurrent slowdowns, major shipping firms may ultimately cease making stops at the Port of Portland.

Even as all these productivity-quashing and illegal job actions were allegedly occurring, ILWU union bosses were under a court injunction not to instigate "slowdowns or work stoppages" at Terminal 6.

This may well explain why Mr. Wedekind was unable to find evidence of "explicit threats" by union officials to foment slowdowns since the injunction was issued.

Nevertheless, he found "compelling circumstantial evidence" that illegal coordinated job actions were "directed or coordinated by Local 8 and the ILWU as well."

For example, the judge cited the finding of economist Bryce Ward, who had been hired by ICTSI to analyze terminal productivity, that the "productivity of every crane and nearly every crane operator remained depressed" throughout the entire period of investigation -- a "'remarkable coincidence.'"

"Judge Wedekind should be commended for his careful weighing of the evidence, and for warning ILWU bosses that they could face contempt sanctions if the apparent sabotage continues," said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad.

"Unfortunately, it is not clear that the judge's stern words will be any more effective in deterring illegal job actions at the Port of Portland than previous judicial opinions finding that the ILWU hierarchy has crossed the line seem to have been."

Federal Law Organizes Employees 'Into Fighting Groups'

"Although punishing ICTSI over a job assignment decision it doesn't even control and intentionally slowing down work at the Portland Port are both technically illegal," Mr. Mourad continued, "federal labor law as a whole looks kindly on union bosses who resort to militant tactics.

"As the late jurist and legal scholar Robert Bork wrote back in the 1960's, the NLRA favors the 'organization of employees into fighting groups.'

"And more than any other provisions, the NLRA provisions empowering Big Labor to foist 'exclusive' union representation on all employees, including union nonmembers as well as members, in a government-delineated 'bargaining unit' promote strife in the American workplace.

"The judicial process, even in the able hands of a legal professional like Jeffrey Wedekind, is ill-equipped to handle the abuses the NLRA fosters. The genuine solution is to reform the NLRA itself by removing its pro-union monopoly provisions."

Union Czars Share Blame For Veterans' Deaths

'Mind-Numbing' Union Work Rules Spawn Inefficiencies, Corruption

In recent weeks, media reports of agonizingly long waits for many Veterans Administration (VA) Department applicants seeking medical care, and the inability of many to get any care at all, have sparked a national firestorm.

But so far the substantial responsibility that federal union bosses who wield monopoly-bargaining power over 78% of Veterans Administration employees bear for the VA's patient backlog and up to 1000 related needless deaths has received relatively little attention.

Law Herding Federal Workers Into Unions Should Be Voided

"The VA scandal powerfully illustrates why the so-called Civil Service 'Reform' Act [CSRA], which statutorily imposed union monopoly bargaining over employee disciplinary procedures and other work rules, ought to be repealed as soon as possible," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

Effectively, the Jimmy Carter-era CSRA makes federal union bosses like American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) President J. David Cox co-managers of the scandal-ridden VA.

And as Betsy McCaughey, the Empire State's former lieutenant governor, explained in a late May column for the New York *Post*, the AFGE union contract at the VA is "filled with mind-numbing" rules.

These Big Labor work rules prevent workers from being "given a new task," required to "change shifts, or . . . disciplined for shoddy work."

Dr. McCaughey concluded that unless monopolistic unionism at the VA is eliminated or at least rolled back significantly, "the inefficiencies and corruption won't be fixed."

Federal Union Bosses Even Oppose Letting VA Patients Know About Better Alternatives

Federal union bosses even oppose a VA program rolled out in the summer of 2013 to "refer vets needing specialists to civilian medical centers, if their wait at their VA is too long or if they live too far away," as Dr. McCaughey put it.

CREDIT: AFGE

Federal union kingpins like J. David Cox are effectively co-managing the scandal-ridden VA.

"It's likely that the vast majority of veterans who need surgery and are 65 or older, and thus eligible for Medicare, would be better off being operated on at civilian hospitals, which have better survival rates for the procedures senior citizens most often require," noted Mr. Mix.

"But, as shocking as it sounds, for Organized Labor bosses like AFGE czar Cox, it is apparently more important to keep increasing the number of VA employees subject to federal union control than it is to furnish ailing vets with what they need."

Another gross abuse resulting from union monopoly bargaining at the VA is so-called "official time."

According to a May 29 analysis for *National Review Online* by Jillian Kay Melchior, in 2012 the VA "paid at least $11.4 million to 174 nurses, mental-health specialists, and other health-care professionals who, instead of caring for veterans, worked full-time doing union business."

Federal Employee Accountability Act a Step In the Right Direction

In fiscal 2011, the most recent year for which relevant data are available, the VA used nearly a million hours of this "official time" for employees working partly or entirely for federal unions, "costing taxpayers more than $42 million."

"Until the day Congress finally steps up to the plate and repeals the CSRA," said Mr. Mix, "taxpayers at least shouldn't be forced to fund union class warfare and lobbying under the guise of 'official time.'

"That's why the Federal Employee Accountability Act, or S.785, is a significant, albeit modest, step in the right direction."

Sponsored by pro-Right to Work Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), S.785 would mitigate the harm inflicted by the CSRA by repealing the two provisions in the statute that authorize "official time."

"In the wake of the shocking revelations this year about abusive practices at the VA, for many of which government union bosses bear responsibility, how could Senate leaders not at least allow debates and recorded votes on S.785?" Mr. Mix concluded.

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Indiana City Rolls Back Monopolistic Unionism

'Fort Wayne Has Taken a Significant Step in the Right Direction'

In late 1968, Leonid Brezhnev concocted his so-called "Brezhnev Doctrine" as a rationalization for his recent invasion of Czechoslovakia and the installation of a new Soviet puppet regime in its capital, Prague.

Recalling with rage that year's "Prague Spring," during which freedom of speech and assembly were briefly restored in a country that had gone communist 20 years earlier, the Soviet dictator blustered: The "gains of socialism" are "irreversible."

For decades, Big Labor bosses in America had a parallel doctrine regarding union monopoly bargaining in public employment: Once a state or locality authorizes it, it's irreversible.

But fortunately for freedom-loving public employees as well as taxpaying businesses and families, Big Labor's "Brezhnev Doctrine" of monopoly bargaining has eroded considerably over the past three-and-a-half years.

CREDIT: SEAN BUETER/WBOI NEWS

In Indiana's second largest city, Councilman John Crawford just led a successful, pro-taxpayer effort to revoke the monopoly-bargaining privileges of many of Fort Wayne's municipal union bosses.

Illinois Gubernatorial Candidate: Wisconsin's Act 10 Is Worth Emulating

In early 2011, elected officials in Wisconsin and Ohio heeded the pleas of pro-Right to Work constituents by adopting laws sharply limiting the scope of union monopoly bargaining in the public sector.

A few months later, Tennessee approved a measure that revoked union bosses' monopoly over all "employee" input in discussions between school boards and teachers regarding pay, benefits, and other working conditions at K-12 public schools.

While Big Labor quickly succeeded in blocking the Ohio reform from taking effect, and later wiped it off the books, the major reforms in Wisconsin and Tennessee as well as more modest limitations on government-sector union monopoly bargaining enacted in several other states have proven to be durable.

This year Illinois GOP gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner, who is leading union-label incumbent Democrat Pat Quinn in most polls, has publicly indicated he would like to enact a Prairie State monopoly-bargaining rollback akin to Wisconsin's Act 10.

And in states which allow localities the option of whether or not to recognize government union officials as county and municipal employees' monopoly-bargaining agents, several school boards and city councils have opted over the past few years to exercise their prerogative to say "no" to Big Labor.

Individual Worker's Freedom Trampled by Union Monopoly

The most recent example is the Hoosier State's second largest city.

On June 24, a 6-3 majority on the Fort Wayne City Council voted to override a veto by union-"friendly" Mayor Tom Henry of a proposed ordinance revoking many municipal union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges.

As a consequence of the two-thirds vote, despite Mr. Henry's veto, monopoly bargaining is now set to be abolished in most municipal government agencies, with the unfortunate exceptions of public-safety departments.

In recent years, grass-roots efforts to roll back government union bosses' special privileges in the Midwest and throughout the country have received critical assistance from the National Right to Work Committee and its members.

Committee Vice President Mary King applauded the Fort Wayne City Council's decision to pound another nail in the coffin of Big Labor's "Brezhnev Doctrine" of monopoly bargaining:

"Fort Wayne has taken a significant step in the right direction.

"Virtually whenever Big Labor wields monopoly power in the public sector, it uses it in ways harmful to taxpayers and other people who rely on vital government services.

"Many public servants also end up getting hurt economically, and all who are subjected to so-called 'exclusive' union representation lose their independence."

Ms. King explained that, without a doubt, the positive changes Wisconsinites have experienced in the wake of Act 10 have inspired ordinary citizens and elected officials in other jurisdictions to push for similar reforms:

"Since the state of Wisconsin successfully fended off litigation to block Act 10 from taking effect three years ago, taxpayers have saved billions of dollars, but the ability of the state and its localities to recruit and reward good public employees has actually improved.

"School districts, for example, no longer have to waste millions and millions of dollars buying overpriced health insurance from a teacher union subsidiary, because they no longer need teacher union bosses' acquiescence to change their insurance providers.

"Teachers can thus get better health insurance at a lower cost, and the savings can be used for better purposes such as rewarding good teachers or reducing taxes."

Union Bosses' Self-Interest Rules

Continued from page 8

private-sector compensation of comparable employees are roughly the same (within six percentage points, one way or the other), have Right to Work laws.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented: "Even absent compulsory unionism, the data show there is a strong tendency for government compensation to exceed the market rate.

"As the Biggs-Richwine study shows, there are zero states where private-sector compensation exceeds state government compensation of comparable employees by more than six percentage points. But there are 30 states where the reverse is true.

"Forced unionism exacerbates the damage to taxpayers. Roughly 40% of state and local government employees were subject to union monopoly bargaining in 2013, compared to just 7.5% of private-sector employees.

"To perpetuate and even tighten their control over the public-sector workforce, government union bosses routinely seek to divert as high a share as possible of compensation into fringe benefits rather than wages or salaries.

"In fact, as many observers have suggested and the Briggs-Richwine study confirms, in the U.S. as a whole cash compensation of public employees is somewhat lower than cash compensation of comparable private-sector employees."

Union Boss-Negotiated Pension Plans a Bad Deal For Most Teachers

Mr. Mix continued: "Extraordinarily expensive public-sector pensions, health insurance, retiree health insurance, paid time off, and other fringe benefits more than make up for the difference.

"Government union bosses who seek and obtain such 'perks' publicly insist that they do so for the sake of public servants. But researchers who have examined such benefit plans carefully have found again and again that what is bad for taxpayers isn't necessarily good for government workers."

Mr. Mix specifically cited a 2013 study ("Better Pay, Fairer Pensions: Reforming Teacher Compensation") by Marcus Winters and Josh McGee of the Manhattan Institute (MI).

The MI analysis showed that under the "defined-benefit" pension schemes almost always promoted by teacher union officials wielding monopoly-bargaining privileges, educators "accumulate relatively little retirement wealth for their first couple of decades" in the profession.

And this means the vast majority of teachers accrue only very small pensions over the course of their entire teaching career, because 70% of teachers leave the profession before they reach 20 years of service.

On the other hand, teachers who remain in the profession for 30 years or more receive pensions that are extremely generous by comparison with those obtained by private-sector employees whose cash salaries are comparable.

National Right to Work Legislation Needed To Restore Balance

"The insightful September 2013 Winters-McGee study for MI," said Mr. Mix, "is just one of many pieces of evidence showing that government union officials who purport to wield their monopoly-bargaining power in ways that benefit all employees are either deluding themselves or lying.

"In the public and private sectors alike, monopoly-bargaining privileges are routinely wielded to benefit some employees at the expense of others. And Big Labor benefits most of all by keeping all employees dependent on the union for their future job security and potential improvements in their pay and benefits."

An important step towards preventing union bosses from distorting government-sector labor markets to the detriment of taxpayers and many other citizens would be enactment of S.204 and H.R.946, the National Right to Work Act.

S.204 and H.R.946, respectively sponsored by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa), would revoke Big Labor's license to force private-sector employees to pay union dues or fees, or be fired, in all 50 states.

"By requiring union bosses and their political machine to rely exclusively on voluntary contributions, the National Right to Work Act would go a long way towards ending the abusive practices that have resulted in a 25% higher average state and local tax burden in states where unionism is currently compulsory," said Mr. Mix.

CREDIT: HILLBUZZ.ORG

Big Labor bosses and militants who furiously oppose rolling back monopolistic government unionism purport to be acting in the best interest of government workers, but the evidence indicates most don't benefit.

Forced Unionism Linked to Public-Payroll Bloat

Taxpayers Suffer Dearly, But Most Public Servants Benefit Little

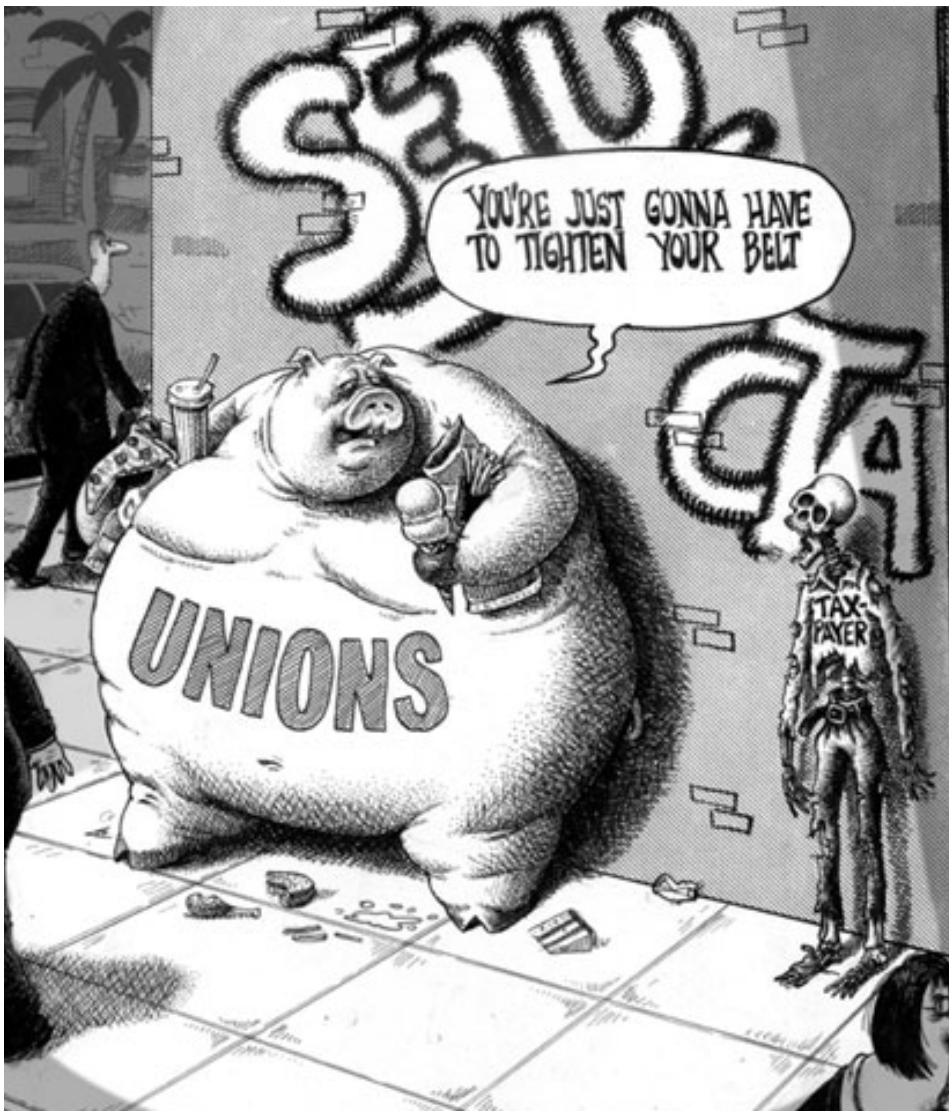
It undoubtedly comes as no surprise to most regular readers of the National Right to Work Newsletter that state and local tax burdens are on average significantly more onerous in states where compulsory union dues are permitted than in states where they are prohibited.

In fact, data published in a report issued this April by the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation, taken in conjunction with U.S. Census Bureau data, show that in 2011 state and local taxes combined consumed 10.7% of all personal income in the 28 states that then lacked Right to Work laws.

That same year, state and local taxes acounted for just 8.6% of personal income in the 22 states that protected employees Right to Work at the time. (Indiana's and Michigan's Right to Work laws took effect in 2012 and 2013, respectively.)

The 11 states with the heaviest state and local tax burdens in 2011 (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts) are all forced-unionism.

Meanwhile, 10 of the 12 states with the least burdensome state and local taxes are Right to Work. On average, state and local taxes consumed a 25% higher share of personal income in forced-unionism states than in Right to Work states in 2011.



CREDIT: SEAN DELONAS/CITY JOURNAL

A recent study authored by two American Enterprise Institute scholars suggests there is a close connection between legally-authorized forced unionism and above-market government-sector compensation.

Above-Market Government Compensation Largely Accounts For States' Higher Spending

The primary reason for the heavier average tax burden in Big Labor-controlled states is that state and local government spending per capita is substantially higher in those states.

And a recent study ("Overpaid or Underpaid? A State-by-State Ranking of Public-Employee Compensation") by American Enterprise Institute scholars Andrew Biggs and Jason Richwine furnishes evidence indicating that above-market government compensation largely accounts for forced-unionism states' higher spending.

According to the Biggs-Richwine study, state government employees across the country typically "receive greater compensation than similarly educated and experienced private-sector employees who work for large employers."

However, the "compensation premium" for state government employees "is not uniform across the nation."

In the average state, state government employees "receive a total compensation premium of around 10 percent relative to private-sector employment."

In the seven states with the largest premiums -- California, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island -- state government employees take in between 23% and 42% more in total salaries/wages and fringe benefits than comparable private-sector employees.

Forced Unionism Exacerbates Damage to Taxpayers

Not one of these states has a Right to Work law on the books protecting employees from termination for refusal to pay forced union dues or fees.

On the other hand, 13 out of the 20 states where state government and

See **Self-Interest** *page 7*