NATIONAL
RIGHT TO WORK
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 61, NUMBER 7 www.nrtwc.org July 2015

Congress Hears Call for Compulsory-Dues Repeal

National Right to Work Committee Leader Decries Out-of-Control NLRB

On June 3, the U.S. House's Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing to document what the panel majority recognizes as an "ongoing assault" on Right to Work that is being perpetrated by President Barack Obama's appointees to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The hearing's primary aim was to assess the repercussions for employees in Right to Work states if the NLRB overturns more than six decades of legal precedents regarding the workplace grievance privileges union officials wield under federal labor law.

Since mid-April, Obama-selected Chairman Mark Pearce and other zealous union-monopoly proponents on the NLRB have been openly considering wholesale "reinterpretations" of two federal labor-law provisions: Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act and Section 8(b)(1)(A) of the National Labor Relations Act.

Taken together, these "reinterpretations" would empower union bosses to force union nonmembers to pay fees to get their workplace grievances processed -- fees that could be as high as or even exceed full union dues.

As National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix explained in his testimony to the panel, forced fees for grievances would hand union officials a new and destructive tool to eviscerate current protections for employee freedom of choice in the 25 Right to Work states.

CREDIT: U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Right to Work President Mark Mix: "History has shown that union officials all too often initiate on-the-job discrimination, which forces a worker into the grievance process the union bosses control . . . ."

Federal Courts Have Long Recognized That Union Bosses Own the Grievance Process

In legal terms, a workplace "grievance" refers to an employee's claim that he or she has been harmed by a misapplication or a misinterpretation of a company policy.

In unionized workplaces, a grievance by any front-line employee cannot be addressed in any way that is inconsistent with the contract between the company and Big Labor bosses exercising monopoly-bargaining privileges.

And federal courts and the NLRB alike have long recognized that union kingpins effectively own the process through which such grievances are handled.

For that reason, both courts and the NLRB have up to now consistently barred union bosses from imposing forced grievance fees on union nonmembers.

But this spring, the Obama NLRB issued a "call for briefs" signaling its intent to reverse board and court precedents going back to 1953 in a move designed to fulfill the union hierarchy's decades-old dream of gutting state Right to Work laws.

Mr. Mix forthrightly explained to the Education and the Workforce Committee members why Congress must "prevent the NLRB from implementing" this "reckless and biased scheme":

"Workers deserve the right to choose for themselves whether a union's services are good enough to earn their support.

See **Congress** *page 2*

Congress Can Stop Obama NLRB

Continued from page 1

"Union monopoly power means workers are forced to go to the union in a grievance, just as they are forced to let the union 'represent' them in anything else about their job. It's wrong to force people to pay for representation they do not want and believe they would be better off without."

He added: "History has shown that union officials all too often initiate on-the-job discrimination, which forces a worker into the grievance process the union bosses control, in order to punish him or her for not joining the union in the first place."

'This, Simple, One-Page Bill Would Free Millions'

Mr. Mix called on Congress to stop the Obama NLRB in its tracks by "prohibiting it from spending any money" on cases that challenge the board's 1976 ruling in *Machinists, Local 697* and other precedents that bar forced fees for grievances.

In addition, Mr. Mix prodded Capitol Hill leadership to take up pending legislation that would repeal all the provisions in federal labor law that authorize forced union dues and fees:

"[T]he National Right to Work Act [S.391/H.R.612] . . . was introduced in Congress earlier this year" in both the House and the Senate.

"This simple, one-page bill would free millions of American workers from the shackles of compulsory unionism."

Facing off against Right to Work advocates at the House hearing were two union-label academics, Robert Bruno of the La Grange, Ill.-based Illinois Economic Policy Institute and Elise Gould of the Washington, D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute.

If a State Isn't Right to Work, 'None of the Other Things Are Going to Matter'

Interestingly enough, neither of them tried very hard to defend the decision by pro-forced unionism Obama NLRB members to try to go after what one of their agency's own administrative law judges referred to only last year as the "well settled and unambiguous precedent" of *Machinists, Local 697*.

Instead, Drs. Bruno and Gould took potshots at state Right to Work laws and, especially, at economic arguments often made in support of such laws.

For example, Dr. Bruno desperately tried to dismiss the importance of reams of data showing a strong correlation between Right to Work status and faster private-sector job growth.

Despite what the numbers show, he claimed that business owners and managers are perfectly amenable to their employees being corralled into unions.

Unfortunately for Dr. Bruno, seated a few feet away from him was Gov. Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.). Mr. Ricketts was previously the chief operating officer of Ameritrade (now TD Ameritrade).

The governor cited his own personal experience as a member of Ameritrade's leadership team to show that a state Right to Work law is indeed a key consideration for businesses considering where to expand:

"That was kind of the first question. If you're not a Right to Work state, none of the other things are going to matter. We're not even going to check you. We're not going to see what your workforce is like. We're not going to look to see what your roads and infrastructure" are like.

"If you're not Right to Work we've got plenty of other states that are.'"

Time and again, Drs. Bruno and Gould tried to depict union monopoly bargaining and forced dues as the best scenario for "working people."

Working-Age Americans Are 'Voting With Their Feet' For Right to Work

However, panel Chairman John Kline (R-Minn.) retorted that he had in front of him data, furnished by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, showing that working-age Americans themselves clearly have another view of what's good for them.

From 2003 to 2013, Mr. Kline noted, the aggregate population of people in their prime working years, aged 35-54, increased by 5.4% in states that had Right to Work laws on the books for the whole period, but fell by 4.1% in state that lacked such laws for the entire decade.

"June 3 was not a good day for Big Labor," reflected Mr. Mix.

"The House hearing that day should pave the way for floor votes on H.R.612 and S.391, the Right to Work measures that would end the manifest injustice of forced union dues. The Committee is now redoubling its lobbying efforts in support of these two measures."

The Obama NLRB, led by Chairman Mark Pearce, has signaled its intent to reverse multiple legal precedents in order to fulfill union bosses' decades-old dream of gutting state Right to Work laws.

‘My Grievances Are With the Union Itself’

Connecticut Employee’s Testimony Discredits Obama Labor Board

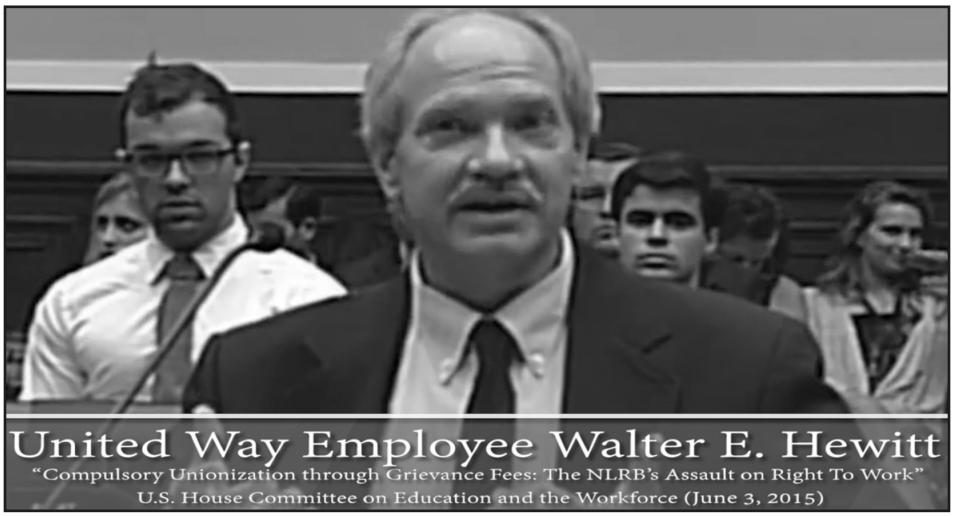
At last month’s hearing by the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee on “compulsory unionization through grievance fees,” the two pro-Big Labor witnesses, Illinois professor Robert Bruno and Elise Gould of the union-label Economic Policy Institute (EPI), effectively tried to assume away the problem.

(For more about the June 3 hearing, see the cover story of this month’s edition of the National Right to Work Newsletter.)

A key unstated premise of Drs. Bruno and Gould was that ALL employees who are subject to union monopoly bargaining in the workplace benefit thereby.

Unfortunately for the two academic champions of monopolistic unionism, Walter Hewitt, an employee of United Way of Southeastern Connecticut (UWSECT) who has actual personal experience with so-called “exclusive” Big Labor representation, also testified.

Mr. Hewitt’s testimony illustrated how union officials who are legally privileged to speak to the employer on behalf of employees who don’t wish to join their organization as well as those who do commonly become arrogant.



CREDIT: U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Nutmeg State charity employee Walter Hewitt: I think passage of a national Right to Work law would “strengthen every worker in the United States who works under a monopoly-bargaining arrangement . . . .”

‘Employees Who Dared to Question the Union Were Treated Very Rudely’

Under the National Labor Relations Act, only the bosses of Local 106 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) are empowered to negotiate with the employer on matters concerning UWSECT employees’ pay, benefits, and other working conditions.

Such extraordinary power obviously has the potential to be abused. And Mr. Hewitt and his colleagues know this from bitter personal experience.

During recent contract negotiations, Mr. Hewitt testified to the House panel, OPEIU union bosses refused even to talk with rank-and-file employees regarding the proposals that were on the table.

Union operatives attempted to justify their refusal to communicate by claiming that they had agreed with management not to discuss with ordinary union members anything about the pending contract.

When infuriated union members stood up at a meeting of Local 106 to express their displeasure over the negotiating process, they got nowhere. “Employees who dared to question the union were treated very rudely,” recalled Mr. Hewitt.

He and his colleagues finally recognized that the only way they could get OPEIU chieftains to listen was to cut off financial support for the union. In a forced-unionism state like Connecticut, this is typically very difficult.

But this April, with the assistance of a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorney, independent-minded employees were able to secure a “deauthorization” vote nullifying the forced-dues clause in the union contract. And 62% of the 21 front-line employees voted in favor of the Right to Work.

Obama Bureaucrats May Undo United Way Workers’ Victory

Unfortunately, explained Mr. Hewitt, OPEIU bosses had so far succeeded in preventing the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from certifying the election result by filing baseless and immaterial objections. Therefore, workers were still being forced to pay dues or fees to Local 106, or risk losing their jobs, at the time of the hearing.

Since then, the forced-dues deauthorization has been certified. But President Obama’s radical NLRB appointees will effectively reverse the employees’ decision if they implement an expansion of union bosses’ coercive privileges that they are now considering.

The pending NLRB scheme would empower Big Labor to charge union nonmembers to get their workplace grievances processed, even as union bosses retain the power to overturn any grievance resolution achieved without their “help.”

Union bosses would not even need to browbeat employers into giving their consent to forced-fee collections that could be as high as or even exceed full union dues in some cases.

At last month’s hearing, Mr. Hewitt explained exactly what the NLRB’s forced-fees-for-grievances “reinterpretation” of federal labor law would mean for workers like him: “[A]ll of my grievances are with the union itself. So you mean to tell me that I’m going to have to pay the union to represent me in my grievance against themselves. [That’s] just incredibly insane.”

Mr. Hewitt called on members of Congress to stop the Obama NLRB “as it tries to weaken and undermine” state Right to Work laws “and the parallel deauthorization process.” He also pressed for passage of the National Right to Work Act [H.R.612/S.391], which would “strengthen” every employee in the U.S. “who works under a monopoly-bargaining arrangement . . . .”

Pro-Right to Work Kentuckians Have a Choice

Clear Contrast Between Gubernatorial Nominees on Forced Unionism

After a hard-fought primary contest in which 93% of the votes went to candidates who had pledged to support efforts to make Kentucky America's 26th Right to Work state, in May businessman Matt Bevin captured the GOP nomination for the Bluegrass State governorship.

With current Big Labor Gov. Steve Beshear (D) barred by Kentucky law from seeking a third term, the state's highest elective office is up for grabs this fall.

In November's general election, Mr. Bevin will be vying for votes with union boss-backed Democrat nominee Jack Conway. Mr. Conway is currently Kentucky's attorney general and a virulent opponent of Right to Work protections for employees in his state.

An overwhelming majority of the Kentucky Senate has already gone on the record in support of a statewide law sharply curtailing Big Labor's forced-unionism privileges. And Right to Work support continues to grow in the state House as well.

Therefore, retaining control over the governorship may be the only realistic way for Bluegrass State union officials to protect their forced-unionism privileges in 2016 and 2017.

"For years, scientific polls have shown that the vast majority of Kentuckians agree that the individual employee's freedom to join or not join a union should be equally protected under the law," said Greg Mourad, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Kentucky's 10-Year Real Compensation Growth: Only 15% of Right to Work Average

"Just last year, a poll sponsored by WKYT-TV in Lexington, WHAS-TV in Louisville, and the principal newspapers in the same cities found registered voters support Right to Work by a two-to-one margin," Mr. Mourad continued.

"Unfortunately, the status quo in Kentucky is fundamentally unfair and contrary to what the public favors.

"It's illegal under all circumstances for employers to fire employees for joining and/or financially supporting a union. But current policy authorizes and encourages employer/union-boss pacts to fire employees who refuse to support financially a union they would never join voluntarily."

Mr. Conway and other apologists for forced-unionism workplace schemes in Kentucky find it hard to explain why, in principle, the right not to support a union is less deserving of legal protection than the right to join.

That's why they frequently insinuate that, however good the Right to Work laws now on the books in 25 states may seem from a moral perspective, enacting such a law would somehow hurt Kentucky's economy.

But the facts just get in their way. States that already have Right to Work laws benefit economically from prohibiting forced union dues and fees.

For example, from 2004 to 2014, private-sector outlays for employee wages, salaries, and bonuses and noncash compensation grew by an inflation-adjusted 15.3% in the 22 states that had Right to Work laws on the books for the whole decade.

That's nearly seven times as much real private-sector compensation growth as Kentucky experienced over the same period, and nearly double the real compensation growth in forced-unionism states as a group.

Trying to 'Split the Difference' on Right to Work Not a Viable Strategy

"The best reason for candidates in Kentucky to take strong public stances in support of Right to Work is that forced unionism is just plain wrong," said Mr. Mourad.

"Candidates who are tempted to sit on the fence should also be aware of the electoral history showing that unabashed advocacy for the Right to Work is politically smart."

The recent Kentucky gubernatorial primary is a case in point, Mr. Mourad added.

After receiving candidate surveys from the Frankfort-based, grass-roots Kentucky Right to Work Committee, Mr. Bevin, James Comer, and Hal Heiner pledged to support passage of a strong, statewide Right to Work law.

Respectively, they received 70,479, 70,396 and 57,948 votes in the Republican primary.

Meanwhile, a fourth candidate, Will Scott, opposed a statewide Right to Work law and said he would back Right to Work only at the local level. He received 15,364 votes.

Mr. Mourad concluded: "The vast majority of Kentuckians and other Americans support Right to Work. A small minority are opposed. But there is no constituency in any state for Right to Work half-measures only."

CREDIT: TIMOTHY D. EASLEY, AP

Kentucky GOP Primary Results

Gubernatorial Candidate	Right to Work Stance	Vote Share
Matt Bevin	100% Support	32.9%
James Comer	100% Support	32.9%
Hal Heiner	100% Support	27.1%
Will Scott	Partial Support	7.2%

Source: Kentucky State Board of Elections

In the gubernatorial primary contest narrowly won by Right to Work supporter Matt Bevin this spring, 93% of the votes went to candidates who had pledged 100% opposition to compulsory unionism in Kentucky.

Does Staying in Connecticut 'Make Any Sense'?

Union BossesMonopoly Power Drives Away Taxpayers of All Kinds

According to the nonpartisan, Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation, this year on average citizens of forced-unionism Connecticut are surrendering well over 36% of their personal income to pay their federal, state and local taxes.

A key reason why Connecticut taxes are so exorbitant is the state's bloated, Big Labor-controlled government sector.

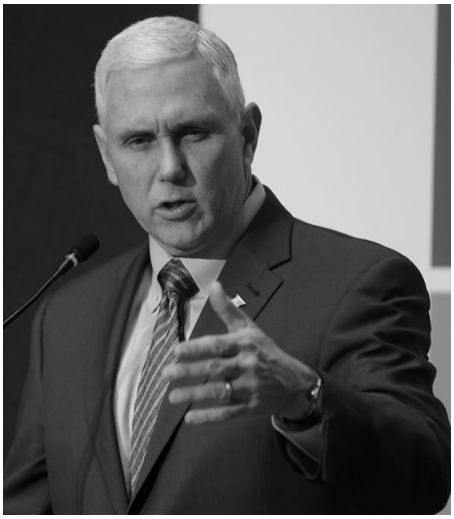
State's Government Sector Eight Times as Unionized As Its Private Sector

According to labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson, last year 64% of Connecticut's government workers were subject to union monopoly bargaining. That's a union density 8.3 times as great as in the Nutmeg State's private sector!

The wealth and power of Connecticut union bosses are, therefore, dependent on ever-expanding government.

That's why Big Labor Gov. Dannel Malloy (D) and his fellow union-label politicians in the Legislature refuse even to consider streamlining government workplaces and reforming the way public employees are compensated. They'd rather keep hiking taxes on all kinds of citizens.

Nutmeggers bear a heavier tax burden, measured as a share of income, than the residents of any other state, a burden 20% greater than the national average and 24% greater than the average for the 25 states with Right to Work laws on the books. Connecticut's overall state-local tax burden has consistently been well above the U.S. average for more than two decades.



CREDIT:DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Gov. Mike Pence is inviting fed-up Connecticut employers and employees to move to Right to Work Indiana.

And thanks to the Nutmeg State's Big Labor-dominated Legislature and Mr. Malloy, Connecticut residents' total tax burden will soon be even more onerous.

In early June, state lawmakers in Hartford rammed through a $40.3 billion two-year budget including a net tax increase of $1.5 billion. (In response to the intensely negative public reaction to the move, Mr. Malloy has since indicated he will seek minor spending cuts to scale back the tax hike modestly.)

After Connecticut's latest massive tax increase was rubber-stamped by legislators last month, a large and venerable company that is headquartered in Fairfield issued a press release protesting the move.

Such actions, the release explained, make "businesses, including our own, and citizens seriously consider whether it makes any sense to continue to be located in this state."

'Friends Don't Let Friends Pay Higher Taxes'

Indeed, over the decade from 2003 to 2013, the total number of forced-unionism Connecticut residents aged 35-54, commonly known as the "peak earning years," fell by 7.7%.

Meanwhile, the aggregate peak-earning-year population of the 22 states that had Right to Work laws on the books for the whole decade increased by 5.4%.

"Americans across the country lose valuable economic opportunities as a consequence of government-imposed forced unionism," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"But there is a silver lining for ordinary citizens, business leaders, and elected officials in the 25 Right to Work states: Today they benefit from the extra talent, energy and experience they have as a consequence of the massive net migration out of forced-unionism states that has occurred over the course of the past several decades."

Pro-Right to Work Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R), whose state became the 23rd to prohibit compulsory union dues and fees in 2012, has been especially aggressive in trying to recruit overtaxed and overregulated Nutmeggers.

On June 10, the state of Indiana ran a full-page ad in the Wall Street *Journal* decrying Connecticut's "looming tax increase" and declaring that "friends don't let friends pay higher taxes."

Mr. Pence also sent letters to several CEOs of companies headquartered in Connecticut inviting them to consider moving to Indiana.

"While Mike Pence's recruitment efforts have directly targeted business leaders, Connecticut employees are receiving the same message about how a Right to Work state like Indiana rewards the productive instead of penalizing them," observed Mr. Leen.

"Judging by the long-term migration data, Connecticut employees as well as Connecticut businesses are likely to be very receptive to this message."

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org July 2015

Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®
8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160
E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor
Greg Mourad Vice President
Mary King Vice President
Matthew Leen Vice President
Stephen Goodrick Vice President and CFO
Mark Mix President
Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

- **Report address changes or corrections**
- **Receive the NEWSLETTER or request, renew, or cancel Committee membership**
- **Obtain more information**

Because of NRTWC's tax-exempt status under IRC Sec. 501 (C)(4) and its state and federal legislative activities, contributions are not tax deductible as charitable contributions (IRC § 170) or as business deductions (IRC § 162(e)(1)).

Right to Work at Manufacturing 'Tipping Point'

Employee Freedom Builds, Sustains Prosperous Communities

According to U.S. Commerce Department data released on June 10, last year a record 47.9% of the entire U.S. manufacturing output (in current dollars) occurred in states that had prohibited compulsory union dues and fees.

As recently as 2004, just 36.6% of the manufacturing production in the U.S. occurred in Right to Work states.

And in the wake of Wisconsin's adoption of the 25th state Right to Work law this spring, it now seems inevitable that, when the Commerce Department issues its report next June on annual state manufacturing GDP for 2015, it will show a majority of the nation's factory output emanating from Right to Work states.

Migration of Factory Output To Right to Work States Has Been Going on For Decades

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented that, when it finally becomes official that most of American's manufacturing production occurs in states that prohibit compulsory union dues and fees, it will simply be a milestone in a disciplined and strategic march toward worker freedom:

"In 1984, the year Ronald Reagan was elected to his second presidential term, just 28.2% of the total value of U.S. factory output came from Right to Work states, then 20 in number.

"By 1994, halfway through Bill Clinton's first term in the White House, the Right to Work share of U.S. manufacturing GDP had risen to 32.1%.

"Right to Work's gradual rise to dominance in domestic manufacturing output and employment is a consequence in part of the adoption of Right to Work laws in Idaho, Oklahoma, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin since 1984.

"But it is also a result of faster growth in Right to Work states.

"From 2004 to 2014, for example, the 22 states that had Right to Work laws on the books for the whole decade experienced overall real output growth more than half again as great, in percentage terms, as the 26 states that lacked Right to Work protections throughout that period."

Counterproductive Union Work Rules Kill Many Manufacturing Jobs

Ms. King added that counterproductive work rules imposed and perpetuated for decades by Big Labor bosses wielding forced-unionism privileges are obviously a key factor behind the state manufacturing GDP data.

"In industry after industry," Ms. King 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.

"Over 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."

The highly productive jobs located in Right to Work states in the Southern, Rocky Mountain, and Great Plains Regions, and now in the Great Lakes Region as well, are enabling millions of workers to provide well for themselves and their families.

Forced-Unionism Apologists' Scorn For U.S. Factory Jobs: Classic Case of Sour Grapes

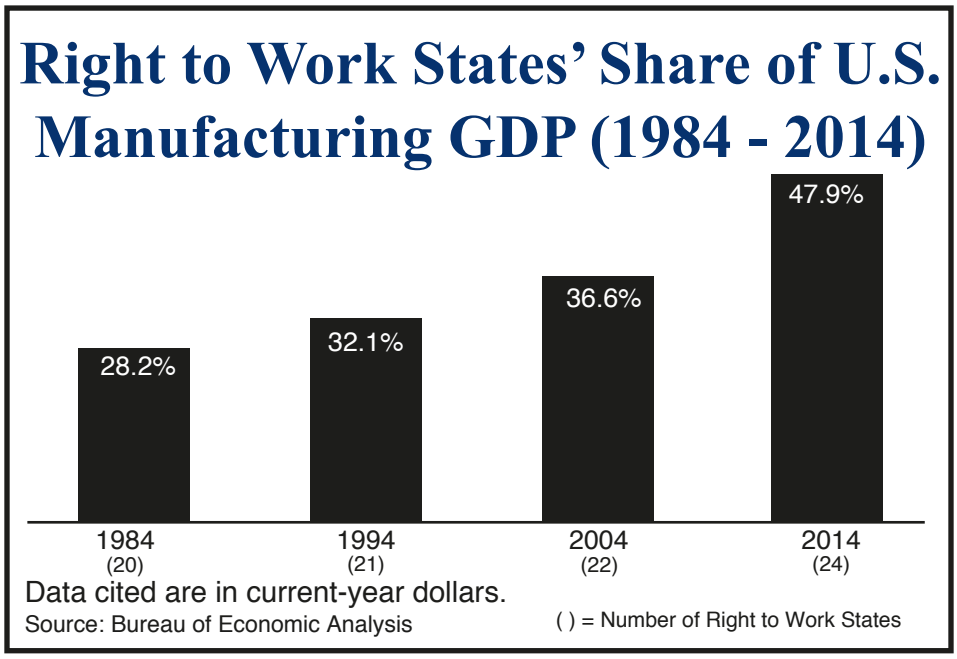
That's especially obvious when Right to Work states' low aggregate cost of living compared to that of forced-unionism states is taken into account.

But instead of supporting worker freedom and the opportunities it provides, a number of forced-unionism apologists have actually suggested in recent years that manufacturing is no longer important because it currently provides a significantly smaller share of American (and global) jobs than in the past.

Ms. King dismissed such sour-grapes claims:

"The fact is, the manufacturing sector remains an essential component of our national prosperity. As Commerce Department data show, it is a sector that today represents roughly 14% of the entire private economy.

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



In 1984, barely more than one-quarter of America's total manufacturing GDP emanated from Right to Work states. But it is easy to predict a majority of 2015 nationwide factory output will occur in such states.

Major CSRA Revision Needed

Continued from page 8

without pay, a penalty the agency itself admitted was "on the lenient side."

But AFGE union czars considered even a five-day suspension to be "unreasonable," as their lawyer put it. Ultimately, union-label arbitrator Robert Steinberg agreed. Mr. Boesen was awarded back pay for the time he was suspended, and his "lost benefits were reinstated, with just a slap on the wrist."

Union Don Vows to Open up 'Biggest Can of Whoop A**' On Noncompliant Lawmakers

In light of these and multiple other notorious examples of federal union-boss abuse of taxpayers and other citizens who rely on vital public services as well as conscientious and talented civil servants, it is not surprising that a number of Capitol Hill lawmakers are proposing CSRA amendments this year.

Of course, AFGE czar Cox and other top federal union officers will do everything they can to block any measure that would curtail their special privileges even slightly.

Speaking at his union's annual convention in February, Mr. Cox vowed to open up "the biggest can of whoop a** on" any senator or congressman who dared to cross the AFGE hierarchy.

However, the workplace problems at the VA and a number of other federal agencies have become so glaring that Congress may soon feel it must act despite government union bosses' threats.

Roll-Call Vote on Reform Will Expose Big Labor Politicians' Extremism

"The best means to address Big Labor-generated waste and inefficiency in the federal workplace and protect independent-minded civil servants' freedom of association would be repeal of all of the monopoly-bargaining provisions in the CSRA," said Mr. Mix.

"And Congress could take a significant, albeit modest, step in the right direction by adopting into law H.R.1658, Rep. Jody Hice's [R-Ga.] Federal Employee Accountability Act of 2015."

H.R.1658 would repeal the CSRA's two "official time" provisions, and thereby mitigate the harm this law inflicts.

These "official time" provisions authorize federal employees who are part- or full-time union officials to collect their taxpayer-funded salaries and benefits for conducting union business, rather than for serving the public.

H.R.1658 would ensure that civil servants are performing the job they were hired to do, rather than working for the union on the taxpayer dime.

"Clearly, H.R.1658 represents a positive step," commented Mr Mix. "Debates and recorded congressional votes on reform measures like Jody Hice's Federal Employee Accountability Act are useful for several reasons.

"One significant reason is that they show just how far many federal politicians today are willing to go to please the union officials who are their paymasters."

Personnel Agency Estimate: 'Official Time' Costs Federal Taxpayers $157 Million a Year

Mr. Mix added that the tireless efforts of the Committee and other citizen groups to mobilize public opposition to "official time" are "gradually making it more difficult for politicians to get away with lining Big Labor's pockets with taxpayers' money."

According to the estimate of the Office of Personnel Management, the agency charged with overseeing the federal civil service, in Fiscal 2012 "official time" cost taxpayers roughly $157 million.

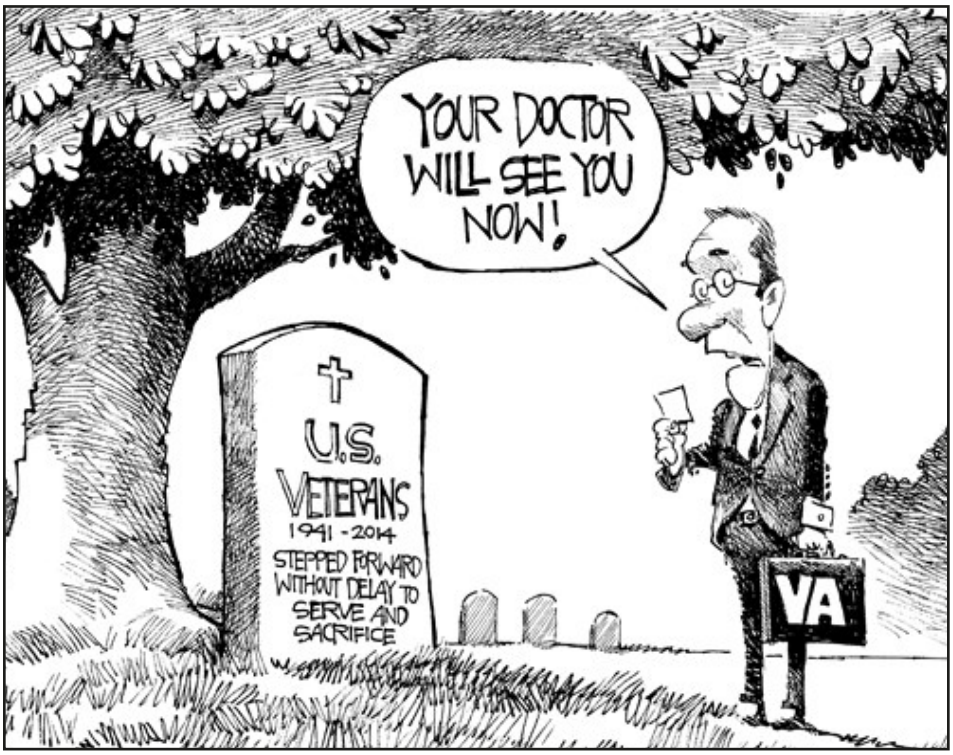
As Ms. MacDonald put it, federal employees spent "3.44 million hours working full-time for unions and not [doing] the jobs taxpayers hired them to do, at places like the Defense Department, the IRS, and the VA . . . ."

The VA is an especially egregious example of "official time" abuses. As Mr. Hice has said, "At a time when the need for veterans' health care is at an all-time high,. . . there shouldn't be over 200 employees of the VA solely dedicated to promoting union activities . . . ."

Mr. Mix added:

"Until the day Congress finally steps up to the plate and revokes the monopoly-bargaining privileges it statutorily handed to federal union bosses nearly four decades ago, taxpayers at least shouldn't be forced to fund union-boss business under the guise of 'official time.'

"Besides making it effectively impossible for Big Labor to get away with this taxpayer rip-off, enactment of H.R.1658 could give momentum to related taxpayer-friendly efforts to bar 'official time' in state and local government agencies."



CREDIT: JOHN DARKOW/COLUMBIA (MO.) DAILY TRIBUNE

Under the so-called Civil Service "Reform" Act, federal union bosses effectively operate as co-managers of government agencies like the Department of Veterans Affairs. The CSRA's impact has been predictably dire.

Union Dons Champion Derelict Federal Employees

Big Labor Fights For 'Government Slackers' on Taxpayers' Dime

A three-part series of reports filed in early June by journalist Elizabeth MacDonald for *Fox Business* offered an array of shocking examples of how union bosses go to extraordinary lengths to prevent negligent federal employees from being held accountable for their poor performance.

Under the so-called Civil Service "Reform" Act of 1978, government union chiefs are statutorily empowered to act as federal employees' monopoly-bargaining agents with regard to disciplinary procedures and other work rules.

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

And according to an analysis by labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson, last year 32.5% of America's 3.3 million federal and postal employees were subject to union monopoly control. That's a union density 4.4 times as high as in the private sector!

CREDIT: BILL BURKE/PAGE ONE

Big Labor politicians like U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va., left) benefit enormously from the activities of the electoral machine run by federal union bosses like J. David Cox (right). But taxpayers pay a heavy price.

Taxpayers Must Award 'Back Pay' to VA Worker Who Let Psych Patient 'Vanish'

Nearly four decades ago, the CSRA created the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) largely to adjudicate disputes between union bosses and government agency managers. Today, as Ms. MacDonald noted in her recent *Fox Business* series, entitled "Cash For Slackers," the FLRA "continues to hear hundreds of cases where federal" union bosses "battle attempted firings" of negligent, incompetent, and/or dishonest civil servants.

One such case was summed up by Ms. MacDonald in this jarring subhead: "Taxpayers Must [Award] Back Pay to VA Worker Who Let Psych Patient Vanish."

This case originated when an unnamed patient in a secure psychiatric unit "for acute inpatients" at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Kansas City, Mo., vanished in the spring of 2014. It turned out VA employees "had left the security door unlocked."

In his work reports, VA employee and dues-paying AFGE member Afolabi Olubo contended he had personally seen the veteran four times, "even though the patient had already disappeared."

In the end, the patient was discovered at his brother's house. But when VA managers tried to fire Mr. Olubo for negligence and for filing false reports, officers of AFGE Local 2663 fought to get the penalty cut to a one-day suspension.

And in September 2014, Big Labor-"friendly" federal arbitrator Archie Robbins sided with AFGE bosses, ordering that the VA revoke Mr. Olubo's suspension "and award him back pay."

Part of the reason why AFGE kingpins may have gone to the mat for Mr. Olubo and other derelict VA employees in Kansas City is the fact that other VA patients had already disappeared at that very facility and at other VA facilities in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, for example.

Food Inspector's Suspension For Failure to Detect a Rat Infestation 'Unreasonable'??

"If the AFGE hierarchy had allowed a precedent to be established that letting a VA psych patient disappear, and then covering up the disappearance, is a firing offense, then there could have been repercussions at multiple VA facilities," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Union dons apparently decided they couldn't risk that outcome."

Another outrageous case of federal union bosses' anti-taxpayer, anti-public safety activism reviewed by Ms. MacDonald involved a food-safety inspector for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Twenty-five-year USDA employee Irvin Boesen was "suspended for 'negligently' failing to discover that rats had infested a pasta factory" in Bridgeview, Ill., during an inspection he purports to have made in February 2010.

A subsequent visit to the Vince & Sons pasta factory by USDA officials revealed that there were "rat feces in a storage area holding bags of raw flour and rat excrement on the floor . . . ."

Mr. Boesen somehow also overlooked "reports form the pest control company hired by the plant, which noted four rats trapped inside the factory that month."

For his gross negligence, the USDA suspended Mr. Boesen for just five days

See **Major** *page 7*