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Three Presidential Hopefuls Woo Big Labor *Will Right to Work Supporters Have a Choice on Fall 2016 Ballot?*

More than another year remains until American voters in all 50 states and in Washington, D.C., go to the polls to choose the next U.S. President in the fall 2016 general elections.

But three of the five declared candidates for the Democrat Party nomination have already promised Big Labor that, if elected, they will veto any national Right to Work measure Congress sends to their desk.

Former U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (N.Y.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders, the two leading candidates in the Democrat contest, made their anti-Right to Work pledges in the course of responding to a questionnaire prepared by the bosses of the National Nurses United (NNU) union.

Also vying for the support of the NNU hierarchy by declaring his fealty to federally-imposed compulsory unionism was former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a dark horse candidate for the Democrat presidential nomination.

Millions of Citizens Want 'a Clear Alternative' to Pro-Forced Dues Obama Administration

As reporter Emily Atkin, a contributor to the news blog *ThinkProgress* whom NNU operatives furnished with copies of the three Democrat presidential candidates' completed surveys, has noted, Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Clinton, and Mr. O'Malley "only fully agreed" on one issue in the questionnaire.

In Ms. Atkin's words, the Vermont senator, the former Maryland governor, and the former New York senator "all said they would veto a national right-to-work law should Congress pass one."

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix expressed his



CREDIT: REUTERS/LARRY DOWNING

Forced unionism is hugely unpopular with ordinary Americans regardless of party affiliation. But several would-be

2016 Democrat presidential nominees are already eagerly proclaiming their support for it.

disappointment that the three politicians would ignore the views of the 70-80% of Americans, including a clear majority of rank-and-file Democrat voters, who support the Right to Work principle.

Mr. Mix cited as evidence an August 2014 nationwide, scientific survey of adult Americans by the world-famous polling firm Gallup, Inc. Gallup found that Americans overall support Right to Work laws by a greater than three-to-one margin, while self-identified Democrats favor the Right to Work principle by more than two-to-one.

"Millions of Americans want a clear alternative to the relentless promotion of compulsory unionism by President Barack Obama and his administration," declared Mr. Mix.

Federal Labor Laws Should Protect Freedom Not to Join A Union, or Be Scrapped

He summed up the Obama White House's dismal record:

"Ever since he became President nearly seven years ago, Barack Obama

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Right to Work Is Savvy Politics

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has repeatedly championed Big Labor power grabs in Congress and appointed forced-unionism zealots to leadership positions at the National Labor Relations Board, the Labor Department, and other federal bureaucracies.

“A host of scientific surveys, of which the August 2014 Gallup poll is but one example, show the vast majority of Americans believe the Obama Administration is just plain wrong to support forcing workers to pay union dues or fees to get a job.

“Freedom-loving Americans don’t favor a federal policy of ‘neutrality’ on the question of whether or not workers should be corralled into unions.

“Instead, they believe all federal labor laws should either protect the individual worker’s right to join or not join a union, or be scrapped completely.”

Several GOP Candidates Are Already Actively Backing a National Right to Work Law

Mr. Mix noted that, among the 17 declared candidates for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, several are already backing a national Right to Work law.

For example, Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) is the lead sponsor of S.391, a measure that would repeal all current provisions in federal law authorizing the termination of employees for refusal to join or bankroll a union. And Sens. Ted Cruz (Texas) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.) are cosponsors of this measure.

Over the coming months, vowed Mr. Mix, Committee members in key primary states “will be doing everything they can to ensure as many presidential candidates as possible pledge to support Right to Work unabashedly if elected.”

The primary reason all candidates for the White House should support federal forced-dues repeal is that it is repugnant for the government to tell people which private organizations they must or must not support financially.

Job Growth Twice as Fast In Right to Work States

But pro-forced unionism federal labor policies also should be opposed because a wide array of evidence indicates they suppress job and income growth.

The disparate economic performance of the 25 states with Right to Work laws (explicitly permitted under the federal Taft-Hartley Act), which ban forced union dues and fees, and the 25 states without such laws provides a telling, though incomplete, gauge of the damage plainly wrought by compulsory unionism.

For example, aggregate private-sector payroll employment in states that had Right to Work laws on the books for the whole decade from 2004 to 2014 grew by 9.9%. That’s nearly double the overall increase experienced by states that still lacked Right to Work protections at the end of 2014.

Similarly, inflation-adjusted private-sector employee compensation (including bonuses and the dollar value of benefits as well as wages and salaries) grew by an average of 15.3% in states that continuously had Right to Work laws from 2004 to 2014.

Meanwhile, aggregate real private-sector compensation grew by just 8.4% in states that lacked Right to Work laws for the whole period.

Even Right to Work States Are Hurt by Federal Pro-Forced Unionism Policies

Mr. Mix observed: “While Right to Work states fare far better, the fact is that the whole country is harmed by the forced-

dues provisions in the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act.

“Union bosses funnel a huge portion of the forced dues and fees they collect with federal labor law’s abetment into politics.

“And the union-label politicians who routinely get elected and re-elected because of Big Labor’s forced dues-funded support overwhelmingly favor higher taxes and more red-tape regulation of business.

“This is true at the federal, state and local levels.

“Private-sector job growth in all 50 states, including Right to Work states, is hindered by the actions of Big Labor federal politicians.”

Mr. Mix said he was “optimistic” several more 2016 presidential hopefuls would soon take a public stand in favor of a federal Right to Work law.

“The fact is, the first three battleground states in the presidential primaries -- Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina -- are all home to extraordinarily vibrant, growing Right to Work movements,” Mr. Mix explained.

“All the 2016 candidates will have to take into account the large numbers of Iowans, New Hampshireites, and South Carolinians who regard Right to Work as a critical issue.

“Those who are savvy politicians, and aren’t so deep in hock to Big Labor that their freedom of action is constrained, should logically respond to the reality on the ground by enthusiastically backing a national Right to Work law.” 📞



So far, several declared White House hopefuls, including Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, and Lindsey Graham, have gone

on the record in support of forced-dues repeal. Many others are expected to follow suit.

CREDIT TO: GLENN FODEN/MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER

Right to Work States Attract Breadwinners

Americans in Their Working Years Are 'Voting With Their Feet'

Because, as a group, they already have plenty of work experience, but are still able to put in a lot of hours on the job, the 84.0 million Americans who were aged 35-54 in 2014 are commonly characterized by economists as being in their "peak earning years."

Unfortunately for the 25 states that continue to lack Right to Work laws today, millions of their residents in this age bracket have gone missing.

Census Bureau data show that, from the early 1960's through the late 1970's, 58.2% of all U.S. births occurred in the states where compulsory unionism was still permitted as of 2014. But in 2014, just 54.4% of all 35-54 year-olds lived in these non-Right to Work states.

If the number of 35-54 year-olds living in forced-unionism states today were perfectly proportionate to those states' share of births from 1959 to 1978, there would have been, as of 2014, 48.9 million residents in that age bracket, instead of the actual figure of 45.6 million.

That suggests forced-unionism states' deficit of residents in their peak earning years is roughly 3.3 million.

States With Greatest 'Peak-Earning-Year' Population Growth Overwhelmingly Right to Work

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad observed:

"It's really no mystery what's happened to these working-age Americans. Millions have fled states where Big Labor wields the power to force employees to pay union dues, or be fired. In effect, they have 'voted with their feet' in favor of Right to Work laws.

"And the correlation between Right to Work laws that prohibit forced union dues and fees and net in-migration of breadwinners is very robust."

From 2004 to 2014 alone, Mr. Mourad pointed out, the number of 35-54 year-olds nationwide fell by nearly 1.8 million as a consequence of the "baby bust" of the 1970's.

But 10 states still managed to chalk up gains of more than 3% in their peak-earning-year population over the same period. And nine of those states -- Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah -- have longstanding Right to Work laws.

Meanwhile, among the 11 states

suffering the steepest declines in their 35-54 year-old population since 2004 -- Alaska, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia -- not one had a Right to Work law prior to 2013. With the exception of Michigan, all remain forced-unionism today.

Breadwinners Favor States Where They Can Provide Better For Their Families

Since roughly 19% of all 35-54 year-olds across the U.S. are immigrants, some readers may wonder if immigration could explain Right to Work states' aggregate increase of 4.5% in 35-54 year-old population since 2004.

But immigration has on average had less impact on Right to Work states than on the rest of the country. According to Census Bureau data, in 2013 immigrants constituted 15.2% of the total forced-unionism state population, compared to 10.6% of the total Right to Work state population.

"The obvious and correct explanation for the Census Bureau data is that

breadwinners, along with their families, are moving in droves from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states," said Mr. Mourad.

"Working men and women find that they can provide better for their families in Right to Work states, with their generally higher real incomes and lower living costs."

He noted that U.S. Commerce Department data, adjusted for regional differences in cost of living with an index calculated by the nonpartisan Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, show that, in 2014, the six states with the highest per capita disposable income all had Right to Work laws.

"Union bosses know full well," he added, "that compulsory-unionism states like California, New York, and New Jersey are far more expensive than the national average, but conveniently forget about this whenever they are debating living standards in Right Work vs. non-Right to Work states.

"And what's hardest of all for union propagandists to explain away is the fact that, when they have a choice, working-age people clearly prefer to live in Right to Work states." 📢

Biggest Gainers and Losers of Residents In Their Peak Earning Years, 2004-2014

Top Ten

Bottom Ten

Utah	+24.0%	Vermont	-18.4%
Nevada	+15.3%	Maine	-15.5%
Texas	+12.5%	Rhode Island	-14.5%
Arizona	+10.3%	New Hampshire	-13.5%
North Carolina	+8.4%	Montana	-11.8%
Georgia	+7.3%	Ohio	-11.1%
Florida	+5.3%	Alaska	-10.3%
Colorado	+4.3%	Pennsylvania	-10.2%
Idaho	+3.4%	Connecticut	-10.1%
South Carolina	+3.3%	West Virginia	-10.1%

Right to Work States

Compulsory-Unionism States

Indiana and Michigan, which became Right to Work in 2012 and 2013, respectively, are excluded. Wisconsin, whose Right to Work law took effect in March 2015, is counted as a forced-unionism state here.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Nationwide, the U.S. population aged 35-54 fell by 2.0% from 2004 to 2014. But 10 states that still lack Right to

Work protections today experienced declines of greater than 10% in the 35-54 year-old age bracket.

Kentucky Employees' Right to Work at Stake

Fall Gubernatorial Contest's Outcome Could Decide State's Future

In just a few weeks, Kentucky voters will go to the polls to select their next governor. And the union political machine is revving up massive, forced union dues-funded voter I.D. and get-out-the-vote campaigns to ensure that Democrat Attorney General Jack Conway becomes the Bluegrass State's chief executive in January.

Union bigwigs haven't been coy about why it is so important to them that Mr. Conway prevail this November.

An item posted on the state AFL-CIO web site in February, for example, quoted this blunt statement from Howard Dawes, director of the "Committee on Political Education" for a Paducah-based central labor council overseeing AFL-CIO-affiliated unions in Kentucky's 13 westernmost counties:

"We support Jack Conway because he supports us. He opposes right to work . . ."

Jeff Wiggins, the president of the council, chief of Calvert City United Steelworkers Local 9447, and a member of the state AFL-CIO executive board, offered basically the same explanation of why he is a "Conway fan":

"We don't need a governor who will tell us that we . . . need right to work. We need Jack Conway."

Registered Kentucky Voters Support Right to Work by A Two-to-One Margin

Ensuring that another forced-unionism apologist succeeds veteran Big Labor politician Steve Beshear (D) as governor may indeed be the only realistic way for Kentucky union bosses to preserve their



CREDIT: HILBILLY REPORT

Why are union bosses supporting Jack Conway for governor? He "opposes right to work . . ."

special privilege to get employees fired for refusal to pay dues or fees to their organizations.

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-dues privileges. And Right to Work support continues to grow in the state House as well.

Moreover, nonpartisan polls have repeatedly 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.

Just last year, a poll sponsored by WKYT-TV in Lexington, WHAS in

Louisville, and the principal newspapers in the same cities found registered voters support Right to Work by a two-to-one margin.

"Unfortunately, the status quo in Kentucky is fundamentally unfair and contrary to what the public favors," said Mary King, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"As even the late Clyde Summers, a Pennsylvania law professor who personally supported monopoly unionism, admitted, under the monopoly-bargaining system, workers who don't want a union are often made worse off than they were before.

"To quote Dr. Summers: 'Full-timers may bargain to limit the jobs of part-timers, seniority provisions may disadvantage younger workers, and wage increases of the low skilled may be at the expense of the highly skilled.'

"The harmed workers are properly seen as 'captive passengers.' There is no even half-way plausible justification for forcing them to pay union dues as a job condition. Yet that's what current law does in Kentucky."

So Far, Matt Bevin Is Kentucky Right to Work Supporters' Only Choice

Facing off against Mr. Conway in Kentucky's gubernatorial contest this fall are two candidates from the business world, Republican Matt Bevin and Independent Drew Curtis.

Mr. Bevin is pledging to sign, at the first opportunity, a law protecting employees from termination for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

But Mr. Curtis has already gone on the record in opposition to a state Right to Work law in Kentucky. The minor difference between him and Mr. Conway on this important issue is that Mr. Curtis has indicated he would support Right to Work at the local level only.

"Barring a last-minute change of heart by Drew Curtis and/or Jack Conway, only one of the gubernatorial candidates on the ballot in Kentucky in November will favor a state statute revoking union bosses' forced-dues privileges. That candidate is Matt Bevin," concluded Ms. King. 📌

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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:

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Union Bosses Claim ‘Right’ to Commit Sabotage

Vandalizing Convention Exhibits a Licit Form of ‘Labor Protest’?

A lawsuit filed by the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA) in May charges that carpenters union bigwigs launched a violent campaign in 2014 at Philadelphia’s Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The campaign has allegedly involved “physical intimidation,” “stalking,” “assault and battery,” and the “destruction of property,” among other crimes. Estimated damages are in excess of a million dollars.

Carpenters union bigwigs are said to have initiated the campaign of destruction to save face after their intransigence had deprived rank-and-file members of the Metropolitan Regional Council of Carpenters (MRCC) union of the opportunity to continue working at the center.

The most egregious cases of orchestrated sabotage cited in the lawsuit occurred just before and during the 2015 Philadelphia Auto Show in late January and early February.

For example, roughly 200 union zealots allegedly were admitted as paying guests, then implemented a well-planned scheme to damage exhibitor vehicles by “removing engine covers and fuses, ripping out wiring harnesses and stealing oil and gas caps,” and jamming “caps and fuses into vehicle engines.”

Incredibly, a motion for dismissal filed by Philadelphia carpenters union chiefs in late June claims that stalking convention center guests and vandalizing exhibitors’ property are licit forms of “labor protest” for which they cannot be held legally accountable.

‘Even Outright Violent’ Labor ‘Activity’ Is ‘Categorically Excluded From the Hobbs Act’

Edward Coryell Sr., executive secretary-treasurer and business manager of the MRCC, other carpenters union bosses, and union lawyers are effectively claiming that union officials have a “right” to commit sabotage that has allegedly resulted in show cancellations, lost customers, and lost booking fees.

To back up this outrageous contention, carpenters union bosses’ June 30 brief invokes the U.S. Supreme Court’s controversial 1973 ruling in *U.S. v. Enmons*.

In this 42-year-old, 5-4 decision, a



CREDIT: PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL.

Philadelphia carpenters union bigwig Ed Coryell and his cohorts claim that, as a consequence of the U.S. Supreme Court’s

misguided 1973 decision in *U.S. v. Enmons*, they can’t be held liable even for “outright violent” actions.

bitterly divided court found that Big Labor arson, assaults, death threats and other serious crimes may not be prosecuted under the federal Hobbs Anti-Extortion Act, as long as such crimes are committed pursuant to securing so-called “legitimate union objectives.”

In the union brief’s words, “Labor activity -- even outright *violent* labor activity . . . is categorically excluded from the Hobbs Act under the *Enmons* doctrine as long as it is designed to achieve legitimate labor ends.”

Even convention center attorneys acknowledge that in a wide array of labor disputes *Enmons* really does grant union bosses a veritable “license to extort,” but contend that it does not apply in their case because MRCC-“represented” carpenters “are not entitled to work” at the convention center.

According to the plaintiffs, carpenters union members lost the right to work at the center in May 2014, after MRCC officials failed to meet the deadline for signing a “Consumer Satisfaction Agreement” (CSA).

Federal Union Violence Act Would Close *Enmons* Loophole

The purpose of the CSA was to stem the loss of convention bookings in Philadelphia caused by outrageous union work rules that had even prevented exhibitors from using power tools and ladders when setting up their booths.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

“Unfortunately, if the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania merely finds that, contrary to the PCCA’s contention, MRCC union members remain eligible to perform work at the convention center, the entire racketeering case will likely collapse.

“Of course, whether or not a union tough like Ed Coryell is held accountable under the same federal laws as everyone else shouldn’t hinge on a secondary issue.

“One positive aspect of *PCCA v. Edward Coryell Sr.* is that, as it unfolds, it will help raise public awareness about the ‘license to extort’ granted union scofflaws by *Enmons*.

“Fortunately, Congress retains the power to overturn *Enmons* legislatively and hold union officials who orchestrate threats and violence accountable under the Hobbs Act. That is exactly what S.62, legislation introduced in January by U.S. Sen. David Vitter [R-La.], would do.

“S.62, otherwise known as the Freedom from Union Violence Act, would hold union officials who plan, commit or foment extortionate violence against a firm’s employees, owners, or customers to the same standard as business rivals, gangsters, or anyone else who does the same.

“The Committee is determined to do everything possible to see this legislation gets the careful consideration it deserves.” 

Big Labor Mostly to Blame For Teacher Shortages

Union Boss-Backed ‘Single Salary Schedule’ Hurts Many Educators

A host of news stories published late this summer reported that public school districts across the U.S. are, as a front-page New York *Times* article put it, “scrambling to hire teachers.”

It is true that for many years (and not only recently) there have been teacher shortages in math, science, special education, English as a second language, and certain other fields.

On the other hand, prospective teachers who specialize in primary education and a range of subject areas like English language arts and social studies often find it very difficult to get any education job at all.

The key reason for the shortages that do exist is the so-called “single salary schedule” used to determine teacher pay rates in the vast majority of school districts across the country. It does not allow school officials to offer higher pay for hard-to-fill teaching positions.

Overall Growth in Number Of Teachers Nationwide More Than Sufficient

National Education Association (NEA) and other teacher union bosses strongly favor perpetuation of the “single

salary schedule,” even though it harms many educators as well as schoolchildren, parents and taxpayers.

“The overall growth in the number of teachers nationwide is actually more than sufficient to meet the needs of America’s schoolchildren,” noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

“In the 2003-2004 school year, there were 3.044 million full-time equivalent K-12 public school classroom teachers in the U.S. By the 2013-2014 school year, there were 3.122 million. That’s a 2.6% increase.

“Meanwhile, from 2004 to 2014, the U.S. K-12 school-age population, five to 17 years old, grew by just 0.9%.

“Part of the reason for the shortages that many districts across the country have regularly experienced in fields like math and science is that teachers with certain kinds of specialized knowledge can command much higher salaries in the private sector than they can in public education.

“This would not be a big problem if school districts had the flexibility to offer substantially higher salaries for the relatively small share of K-12 positions for which they have trouble recruiting

teachers.

“But union bosses habitually say ‘no’ whenever school districts try to do this.

“In fact, the hierarchy of the three million-member NEA union has officially gone on record time and again in opposition to ‘providing additional compensation to attract and/or retain education employees in hard-to-recruit positions.’”

Without Monopoly Privileges, Teacher Union Bosses Couldn’t Shield ‘Single Salary’ Scheme

Mr. Leen commented: “Of course, teacher union officials wouldn’t have been nearly so successful at blocking significant reforms of the single salary schedule over the years without the help of the state laws authorizing and promoting union monopoly bargaining that are on the books in two-thirds of the 50 states.”

Were it not for state laws and local policies promoting monopolistic teacher unionism, school districts would be able to offer significant recruitment and retention incentives for hard-to-fill positions without imposing additional burdens on taxpayers.

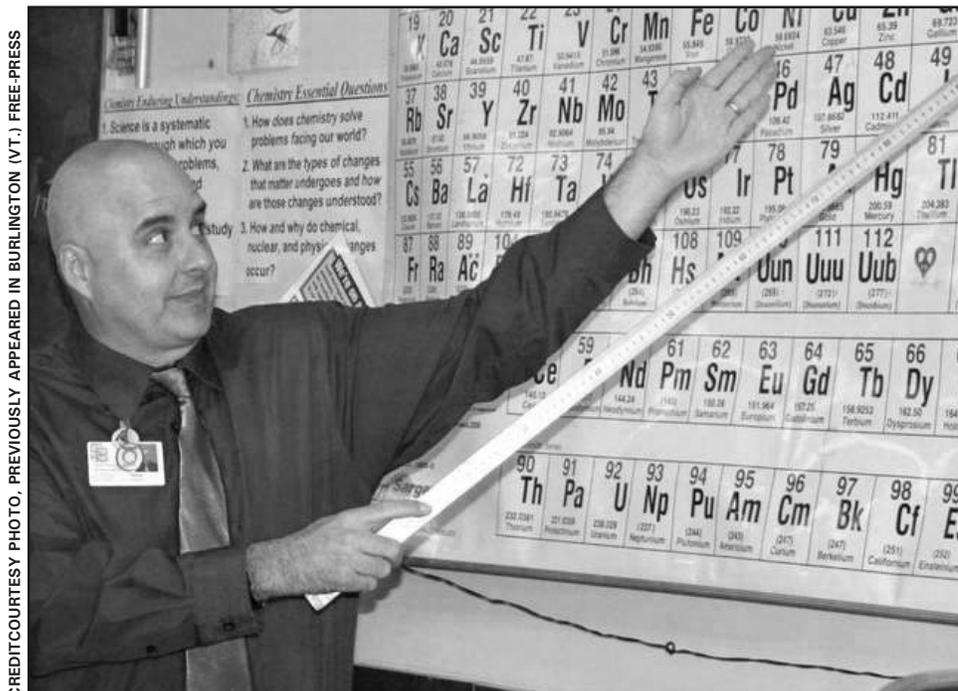
“In addition to dictating far-below-market pay rates for some teachers,” explained Mr. Leen, “the single salary schedule mandates above-market pay rates for teachers who earn graduate degrees, regardless of the field of study.

“It does this even though disinterested research has failed to find a single positive effect of teacher graduate degrees upon student performance.

“School districts could also free up funds to increase pay for hard-to-fill teaching positions by making the currently automatic pay raises granted to teachers after every year of employment contingent on meeting minimum performance standards.

“In addition to hurting schoolchildren and taxpayers, teacher union officials’ stubborn opposition to meaningful reform of the counterproductive single salary schedule obviously hurts many educators.

“And in more than 20 states, public policy adds insult to injury by empowering union bosses to force teachers who choose not to join their organization to fork over fees to it as a condition of keeping their jobs.”



COURTESY PHOTO. PREVIOUSLY APPEARED IN BURLINGTON (VT). FREE PRESS

In the private sector, the typical chemistry major earns a far higher salary than the typical English major.

But teacher union monopolists stubbornly insist all teachers be kept under the same rigid pay schedule.

Union Monopolists Bankrupt States

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establishment of a trillion-dollar federal “loan program.”

In practice, the Sweeney scheme would force taxpayers in Right to Work states whose elected officials have managed their budgets more responsibly to bail out union-label politicians in Big Labor-dominated states like New Jersey.

During a July 29 news conference in Trenton, Mr. Sweeney said his office was already enlisting the support of union officials across the country to help him convince the U.S. Congress to take up his bailout plan.

And perhaps the most powerful Big Labor chieftain in the Garden State, New Jersey Education Association (NJEA/NEA) teacher union President Wendell Steinhauer, immediately warmed up to Mr. Sweeney’s concept of a so-called “loan program.”

“The numbers are working,” cooed Mr. Steinhauer.

Seven States With Highest Pension Liabilities Per Capita Lack Right to Work

Committee President Mix acknowledged that politicians everywhere have a bad habit of making spending promises

that taxpayers can’t reasonably be expected to fulfill. But Right to Work laws now on the books in 25 states do evidently help keep politicians’ irresponsibility from getting completely out of hand.

To back up his point, Mr. Mix cited “Promises Made, Promises Broken,” an ongoing analysis of public pension plans prepared by the nonpartisan group State Budget Solutions (SBS).

In an update published in November 2014, SBS editor and attorney Joe Luppino-Esposito reported that, in the aggregate, state public pension plans are underfunded by \$4.7 trillion.

That adds up to over \$15,000 per American. But debt levels vary sharply from state to state.

The 26 states that lacked Right to Work protections as of last year had an average unfunded liability of \$18,125 per capita. In contrast, Right to Work states had a large, but much more manageable per capita pension liability that is 38% lower.

“All of the seven states with the greatest per capita pension liability as measured by SBS -- Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and Ohio -- lack Right to Work laws,” said Mr. Mix.

“At the same time, nine of the 10 states with the lowest per capita pension



CREDIT: FRONTPAGEWAG.COM

Union-label politician Steve Sweeney is desperate to stop New Jersey from becoming “another Wisconsin.”

liability -- Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee -- already had Right to Work laws in 2014.”

Fiscal Realities May Finally Force States Like New Jersey To Emulate Wisconsin

The only state among the 10 with the lowest per capita unfunded liabilities that did not prohibit forced union dues across the board, Wisconsin, actually had adopted a statute in 2011 protecting the Right to Work of all K-12 employees and many other public-sector workers. (This year, Wisconsin became the 25th Right to Work state.)

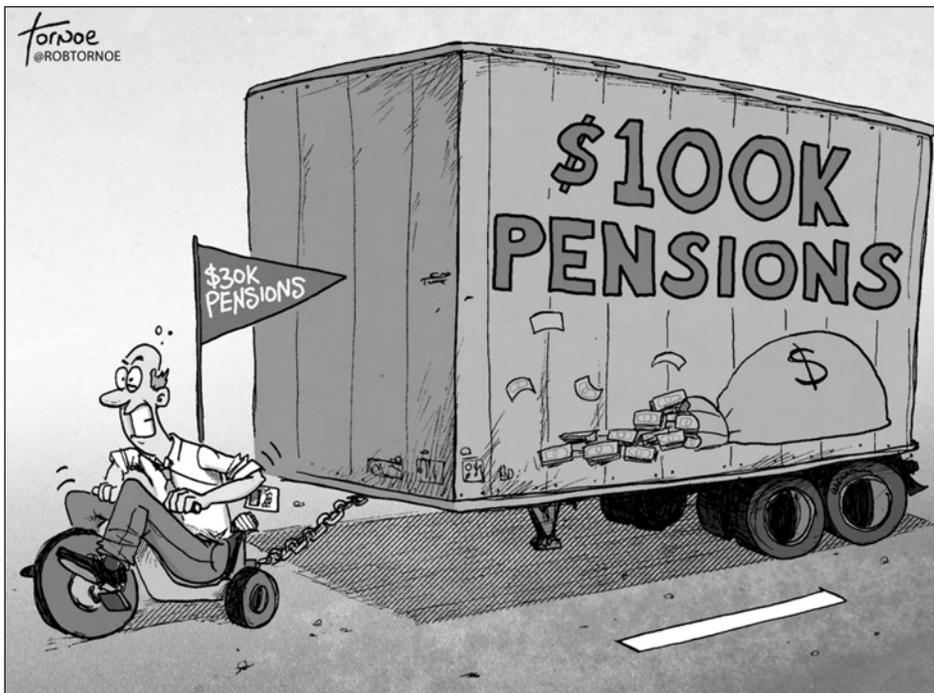
Mr. Mix concluded: “Steve Sweeney and Wendell Steinhauer must be aware that the debt-ridden U.S. government is in no position to make massive loans to spendthrift states like New Jersey at a far-below market rate.

“And this is one reason why Congress is unlikely to be foolish enough to adopt Mr. Sweeney’s plan or anything like it.

“But Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Steinhauer evidently hope that, by putting it on the table, they can undercut renewed efforts to require unionized government employees to pay for a higher share of their pension benefits and curtail public-sector union bosses’ monopoly privileges.

“The last thing Big Labor and its puppet politicians want is a New Jersey version of Wisconsin’s Act 10, the 2011 statute under which the Right to Work of most public-sector employees in the Badger State was restored.

“But fiscal realities may finally be pushing the Garden State in that direction despite the best efforts of Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Steinhauer.” 🗳️



CREDIT: ROB TORNOROE/WWW.NEWSWORKS.ORG

As a consequence of government-sector union monopoly-bargaining schemes, taxpayers of all kinds get bilked in

order to pay for extraordinarily lavish handouts to pet groups of government employees.

Teacher Union Don Seeks Taxpayer-Funded Bailout

New Jersey NEA Chief Backs Trillion-Dollar Federal ‘Loan Program’

For decades, many government union chieftains across America have enjoyed what effectively amounts to the ability to “elect our own boss,” as the late Victor Gotbaum once put it in a conversation with journalist Ken Auletta.

Mr. Gotbaum, the powerful head of New York City-based District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees from 1965 to 1987, was referring to a flagrant conflict of interest that routinely occurs in modern politics.

In jurisdictions where forced government union dues and fees are permitted and union monopoly bargaining in the public sector is authorized, union bosses negotiate with public employers over civil servants’ pay, benefits and working conditions.

At the same time, government union chiefs funnel a large portion of the compulsory dues and fees they collect from employees into efforts to influence the outcomes of state and local elections.

Forced Dues-Influenced Elections Determine Who Sits at Bargaining Table

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

“In city after city and state after state, government union bosses have wielded their forced-dues privileges to amass huge war chests, with which they support and oppose candidates for public office,” noted Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

“One consequence of the rise of monopolistic government unionism has been that ordinary citizens have less and less say regarding how public employees are compensated and managed.

“And another consequence has been that union officials have time and again wielded their special privileges to jack up governments’ long-term spending commitments.”

Annual Cost of Paying Off New Jersey’s Full Debt Could Be \$10 Billion or Even More

Big Labor-dominated New Jersey is a cautionary example.

As a July 30 news story for the



CREDIT: CHRIS PEDOTA/THE RECORD (WOODLAND PARK, N.J.)

New Jersey Education Association (NJEA/NEA) union President Wendell Steinhauer supports the creation of a

massive new federal slush fund to bail out Big Labor-dominated states such as his own.

Newark-based *Star-Ledger* acknowledged, the Garden State is “home to one of the worst-funded public pension systems in the nation . . .”

And an analysis of state Treasury records conducted in June by the *New Jersey Watchdog* website found that the state has amassed \$82.7 billion in unfunded liability for state employee pension plans. New Jersey also must deal with a \$20.7 billion shortfall for local government employee pensions, and \$53 billion in unfunded health benefits for state retirees.

New Jersey Watchdog has estimated that filling the massive gap in funding for public employee retirement benefits in the Garden State could cost “roughly \$10 billion per annum,” even if elected officials could somehow obtain today a 30-year loan to cover the entire shortfall and pay only 1% a year in interest.

Given the dire circumstances, the first thing elected officials in New Jersey must do is stop deepening the hole the state has dug for itself.

That means eliminating, or at least sharply restricting, the coercive privileges of government union bosses who currently wield monopoly-bargaining power over 64% of New Jersey’s public employees.

Make Federal Taxpayers Pay For What Union-Label State Politicians Did?

Unfortunately, state Senate Majority Leader Steve Sweeney (Gloucester) is clearly not interested in helping New Jersey citizens reassert control over how public resources are allocated by fighting to roll back government-sector monopoly bargaining and forced union dues.

Instead, Mr. Sweeney and a number of his fellow Democrat politicians are opting to try to get Congress to shift the burden to federal taxpayers.

In late July, Mr. Sweeney (who moonlights as an ironworkers union official) publicly called for the

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