NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Public-Sector Forced Union Dues: Unconstitutional

Civil Servant, Right to Work Attorneys Prevail at Supreme Court

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in what Washington *Post* editors call "the most important labor case of the 21st century to date," *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*.

A majority of the High Court's nine justices ruled in favor of plaintiff Mark Janus, an Illinois civil servant.

For 11 years, Mr. Janus had been compelled by state law to pay so-called "agency" fees to officers of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union and its Chicago-based AFSCME Council 31 affiliate -- two organizations to which he doesn't belong and of which he doesn't approve.

Had he refused, he would have been fired.

Credit: NRTW LDF

Thanks to the victory won by child support specialist Mark Janus and his legal team, led by Right to Work staff attorney Bill Messenger (pictured, center), public-sector forced union dues are now prohibited nationwide.

'A Landmark Victory For the Rights of Public-Sector Employees Coast-to-Coast'

The *Janus* majority opinion, authored by Associate Justice Samuel Alito, agreed with the plaintiff and his counsel of record, Right to Work staff attorney Bill Messenger, that certain pro-Big Labor laws in Illinois and other states are unconstitutional.

Such laws violate the First Amendment, explained Justice Alito, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Neil Gorsuch, when they force public servants like Mr. Janus, as a job condition, to support union-boss advocacy directed at public officials.

"The *Janus* decision is a landmark victory for the rights of public-sector employees coast-to-coast that immediately began freeing millions of teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees from mandatory dues payments," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"While this victory represents an enormous step forward in the fight to protect all American workers from forced unionism, that fight is not over.

"From the time the High Court decided to take up *Janus* in early June 2017 until the ruling was issued just over a year later, union-label legislators and governors hastily adopted and signed an array of measures intended to blunt the impact of a potential pro-worker freedom decision.

"These state statutes are plainly designed to deter civil servants from ever exercising their at long last recognized right not to bankroll an unwanted union.

"And millions of private-sector employees in states without Right to Work protections will continue, in the wake of *Janus*, to be forced to pay union fees, or be fired.

"That's why, even as Right to Work leaders and staff were celebrating the *Janus* decision early this summer, we were taking steps to enforce this historic victory over forced unionism, and also to expand upon it."

Granting a 'Private Entity' Taxation Power Over Public Workers 'Undoubtedly Unusual'

It was more than three years ago that Mr. Janus, a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services, began pursuing a case, with two other plaintiffs, challenging forced union dues and fees as a condition

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Millions of Workers Freed

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of public employment on First Amendment grounds.

Originally, Mr. Janus was an intervenor in a suit brought by pro-Right to Work Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner. But when Mr. Rauner was found by a court to lack standing, Right to Work attorneys successfully sought to add Mr. Janus as a party in the litigation.

Throughout the entire court battle, he was represented by staff attorneys for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Committee's sister organization, as well as the Winston & Strawn law firm and the Liberty Justice Center in Chicago.

For four decades before the *Janus* court finally acknowledged that public-sector forced union dues and fees are unconstitutional, federal courts openly conceded that they were constitutionally problematic.

For example, the late Justice Antonin Scalia admitted in the 2007 majority opinion for the Right to Work Foundation-won *Davenport* case that it is "undeniably unusual for a government agency to give a private entity the power, in essence, to tax government employees."

Abood Gave Union Bosses License to 'Interfere' With Employees' Free Association

It was in another Foundation case, 1977's *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, that the Supreme Court originally sanctioned this "undeniably unusual" privilege for government union bosses.

Abood gave a judicial wink to forced financial support for government unions' bargaining-related activities when union officials are granted monopoly power to "represent" employees who don't want a union along with those who do.

If legislators grant union officials the latter privilege, theorized Justice Potter Stewart while writing the *Abood* opinion, legislators must also have the option to empower union bosses to force unwilling workers to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

Justice Stewart admitted all the same that compulsory payments to unions may well "interfere in some way with an employee's freedom to associate for the advancement of ideas, or to refrain from doing so, as he sees fit."

'Like a Person Shanghaied For an Unwanted Voyage'

For many years, federal courts swallowed Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining excuse for public-sector forced union dues.

But Justice Alito's *Janus* opinion, informed in part by the meticulous legal arguments and exhaustive research furnished by the plaintiff and friends of the court who submitted briefs backing his position, exposed it as unsupportable.

To start with, the *Janus* majority implicitly rebuked government union bosses and the justices who sided with them for refusing to grant any respect to the plaintiff's compelling argument that, as a consequence of union monopoly bargaining, he is "like a person shanghaied for an unwanted voyage."

There is no respectable rationale for forcing civil servants like Mr. Janus to give money to a private party for being taken to a place they would prefer not to go.

Second, *Abood* falsely assumed that union bosses would "refuse to serve as the exclusive [monopoly] representative of all employees in the unit" unless they were also "given [forced] agency fees."

Financial Impact of Decision On Big Labor Can't Be Known, But Will Surely Be Vast

In reality, the *Janus* majority pointed out, "designation as exclusive representative is avidly sought" in jurisdictions where the Right to Work is protected as well as in jurisdictions where it isn't.

Even granting, as the *Janus* opinion did, the extremely dubious premise that public-sector monopoly bargaining may advance "compelling government interests," forced fees are completely unneeded to persuade union bosses to seek bargaining privileges that they will demonstrably seek anyway.

Any disruptions caused to union officials by the loss of forced payments from nonmembers are outweighed, the *Janus* opinion observed, by the "considerable windfall" Big Labor has received as a consequence of *Abood*:

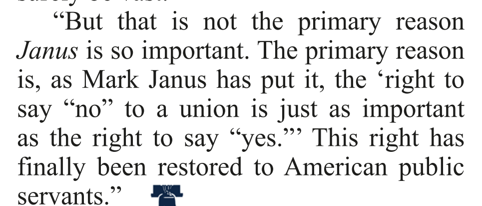
"It is hard to estimate how many billions of dollars have been taken from nonmembers and transferred to public-sector unions in violation of the First Amendment. Those unconstitutional exactions cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely."

Mr. Mix commented:

"No one knows for sure how many of the roughly five million public employees who have been forced to join or bankroll a union up to now will cease doing so as *Janus* rights are enforced and unionism becomes voluntary.

"The number will surely be large, and the financial impact on Big Labor will surely be vast.

"But that is not the primary reason *Janus* is so important. The primary reason is, as Mark Janus has put it, the 'right to say "no" to a union is just as important as the right to say "yes."' This right has finally been restored to American public servants."



Credit: Saul Loeb AFP/Getty Images

Justice Alito: "It is hard to estimate how many billions of dollars have been taken from nonmembers and transferred to public-sector unions . . . . Those unconstitutional exactions cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely."

Government AND Private Employees' Right to Work

'Clothed With' Sovereign Power, Big Labor Tramples Free Speech

Thanks to the remarkable Right to Work U.S. Supreme Court victory in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* (see page one for more information), compulsory employee financial support for government-sector unionism is no longer legal anywhere in America.

Of course, a great deal of Right to Work legislative and legal action is now needed, and will be needed for some time to come, to ensure civil servants can actually exercise the First Amendment rights the High Court has ruled are theirs.

But in the 22 states that still lack Right to Work protections in the private sector, Big Labor retains the power, at this time, to force employees with impunity to bankroll union-boss speech with which the employees disagree.

Union Bosses' Coercive Power Over Private Employees 'Not Unlike That of a Legislature'

Under U.S. Supreme Court precedents going back nearly 75 years, the monopoly-bargaining privileges union officials receive via the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and the Railway Labor Act (RLA) render those officials subject to constitutional constraints.

The two federal statutes define specific conditions under which an employer must recognize a particular union as the "exclusive bargaining agent" for all the front-line workers, including union members and nonmembers alike, in a business or other "bargaining unit."

In his 1944 Supreme Court opinion in *Steele v. Louisville & Nashville Railroad*, Chief Justice Harlan Stone found that, under the RLA "a union is clothed with power not unlike that of a legislature . . . ."

Consequently, if the RLA actually permitted the forging of racially discriminatory contracts, as the railroad-company and union-boss respondents in the case contended, the statute would violate the Fifth Amendment rights of the employees who lost their jobs.

The *Steele* court allowed the RLA to stand only by concluding, somewhat creatively, that the law tacitly barred union bosses from using their government-granted monopoly power to force African-American workers out of good jobs.

Unfortunately, in practice, *Steele* did little to prevent Big Labor-instigated racial job discrimination.

Credit: Robbi Pengelly/Sonoma Index-Tribune

Chief Justice Harlan Stone: Government-authorized union monopolies are "subject to constitutional limitations."

But it did at least establish that whenever union bosses are "clothed with power" akin to that of legislators, Big Labor must not be allowed to wield that power to trample employees' constitutional rights.

Legislators, and Not Only Judges, Have a Duty to Uphold the Constitution

When private-sector union bosses wield their government-granted monopoly-bargaining privileges to extract an agreement from an employer forcing independent-minded employees to pay dues or fees to a union as a job condition, the constitutional rights of those employees are violated.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

"*Janus* addresses only forced employee financial support for union-boss speech 'directed at the government,' and consequently does nothing to stop ongoing Big Labor attacks against the First Amendment freedom of millions of private-sector employees.

"Fortunately, contrary to the mistaken notion of many people inside Washington, D.C.'s Beltway, judges are not the only people who have the authority to redress constitutional wrongs.

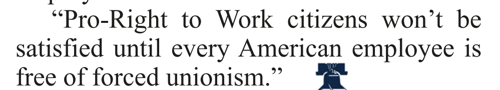
"Lawmakers and chief executives also have, under an array of circumstances, the ability and the duty to protect the Constitution."

The National Right to Work Act, legislation already introduced in the U.S. House (as H.R.785) and the U.S. Senate (as S.545), would prohibit the termination of private-sector employees covered by the NLRA or the RLA for mere refusal to join or bankroll a union they didn't ask for, and don't want.

"I hope Congress will be inspired by the Supreme Court's June 27 decision in *Janus* to take up and vote on H.R.785 and/or S.545, which would stop Big Labor from exploiting the NLRA or the RLA to force employees to pay union dues, or be fired," said Mr. Mourad.

"The fact is, private employees' Right to Work is no less deserving of legal protection than is the Right to Work of government employees.

"Pro-Right to Work citizens won't be satisfied until every American employee is free of forced unionism."



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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
John Kalb Vice President
Mary King Vice President
Matthew Leen Vice President
Stephen Goodrick Vice President
Mark Mix President
Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

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Breadwinners' 'Forced-Dues State Exodus'

Between 2007 and 2017, a Net Loss of 3.2 Million 'Peak Earners'

Union propagandists often grossly understate, or altogether "forget" about, regional cost-of-living differences when they are debating living standards in Right to Work states vs. forced-unionism states.

Downplaying or ignoring this key issue makes it easier to pretend compulsory unionism is not economically disastrous.

But no matter how Big Labor tries to insist that corralling workers into unions somehow makes them richer, there is one unimpeachable fact that union spokesmen have extraordinary difficulty explaining away:

When they have a choice, working-age people prefer not to live in forced-unionism states.

Over Past Decade, Forced-Dues States' Peak-Earning-Year Population Fell by 7.4%

Considered together, age-grouped state population data for 2017 released by the U.S. Census Bureau in late June and comparable data for 2007 tell an important story.

They show that, over the past decade, the total population of people in their peak-earning years (aged 35-54) for the 22 states that have yet to adopt a Right to Work law barring the termination of employees for refusal to bankroll an unwanted union fell from 43.34 million to 40.19 million.

That represents a decline of roughly 3.2 million, or 7.4%.

Nationwide, the peak-earning-year population fell by 4.3% from 2007 to 2017, but in the 22 states that had Right to Work laws on the books the whole time, there was no overall net decline at all.

And the correlation between forced-unionism status and peak-earning-year population decline is quite robust.

Breadwinners Favor States Where They Can Provide Better For Their Families

Among the 44 states that were either Right to Work or forced-unionism for the whole period from 2007 to 2017, the 10 states experiencing the most severe peak-earning-year losses are all forced-unionism. (See the chart on this page for additional information.)

Fifteen of the 17 bottom-ranking states are non-Right to Work.

Had the decline in the 22 states that still don't have Right to Work statutes today been only as severe as the national average, they would have had roughly 1.3 million more residents in their peak-earning years as of 2017.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented:

"The obvious and correct explanation for the Census Bureau data is that breadwinners, along with their families, are fleeing forced-unionism states in droves.

"Working men and women find again and again that they cannot provide as well for their families in such states as they can in Right to Work states, with their generally higher real incomes and lower living costs."

Mr. Leen pointed to 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, a state government agency.

They show that, in 2017, the top-ranking states for disposable income per capita had Right to Work laws.

Cost of Living-Adjusted Income Per Capita More Than $2200 Higher in Right to Work States

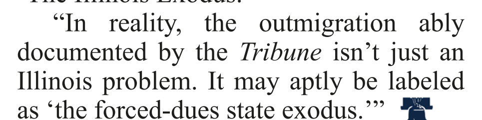
They also show the average cost of living-adjusted disposable income per capita in Right to Work states last year, after weighting for state population differences, was $42,857, more than $2200 higher than the forced-unionism average.

Mr. Leen commented: "Union bosses know full well that large compulsory-unionism states like California and New York are far more expensive than the national average. But they can't admit it in the context of the Right to Work debate, without torpedoing their economic argument.

"And higher living costs and slow job growth are not the only economic ills pushing breadwinners in forced-unionism states to seek better opportunities in Right to Work states.

"High and rising state and local tax burdens are also endemic to forced-unionism states. Recently, the editors of the Chicago *Tribune* have highlighted how excessive taxes are driving breadwinners out of the Prairie State in a series they call 'The Illinois Exodus.'

"In reality, the outmigration ably documented by the *Tribune* isn't just an Illinois problem. It may aptly be labeled as 'the forced-dues state exodus.'"



States With the Greatest Percentage Losses Of Residents, Aged 35-54, From 2007-17

STATE	ABSOLUTE LOSS	PERCENTAGE LOSS
Vermont	38.7 thousand	20.2 percent
New Hampshire	73.0 thousand	17.3 percent
Maine	70.5 thousand	17.3 percent
Rhode Island	48.1 thousand	15.3 percent
Connecticut	148.0 thousand	13.7 percent
Ohio	436.3 thousand	13.1 percent
Pennsylvania	469.5 thousand	12.8 percent
Alaska	23.5 thousand	11.3 percent
Illinois	378.9 thousand	10.2 percent
New York	574.9 thousand	10.1 percent

All 10 of these states are compulsory-unionism.

Since Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri adopted Right to Work between 2012 and 2017, they are excluded.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Chart originally published by *Chief Executive*

Census Bureau data clearly show that, when they have a choice, working-age people prefer not to live in forced-unionism states. Union spokesmen have extraordinary difficulty explaining away this unimpeachable fact.

Appalachian County Welcomes $1.5 Billion Mill

Without Right to Work, Kentucky 'Wouldn't Have Been on the List'

On a site located near Ashland in eastern Kentucky's Greenup County, Braidy Industries Inc. recently began construction on a $1.5 billion rolling aluminum mill that will ultimately employ an estimated 600 people in high-paying jobs.

Braidy CEO Craig Bouchard originally announced that Greenup County would be the location for what is now expected to be a 1.8 million-square-foot facility in April 2017.

Kentucky "wouldn't have been on the list" of possible sites, he said, had the state not enacted a Right to Work law at the beginning of that year.

The aluminum mill, which ultimately is intended to supply the aerospace and defense industries as well as the automobile industry, is scheduled to open in 2020.

Its production capacity "could reach 300,000 tons of aluminum alloy and plate a year," according to a June 6 news account for the *Northern Kentucky* (Edgewood) *Tribune*.

Employees will earn an average salary of roughly $70,000 a year.

This June, construction began on an aluminum mill ultimately expected to employ 600 people earning an average salary of roughly $70,000 a year in eastern Kentucky. It wouldn't have happened without Right to Work.

National Right to Work Helped Kentuckians Ban Forced Union Dues, Fees

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb said the fact that the Braidy rolling mill is being built in Greenup County is just one of many pieces of evidence that Kentucky's grass-roots foes of forced unionism were right all along.

"Right to Work supporters played a key role three years ago in helping then-gubernatorial candidate Matt Bevin [R], who had pledged to make unionism voluntary, secure the Kentucky governorship by a decisive 85,000-vote margin," recalled Mr. Kalb.

"And after Big Labor House Speaker Greg Stumbo [D-Prestonburg] thwarted Mr. Bevin's efforts to end Kentucky's status as a forced-unionism state in 2016, these same grass-roots citizens ousted Mr. Stumbo from office and reduced overall House Right to Work opposition from an estimated 60-40 majority to a 58-39 minority.

"Throughout the multiyear campaign to revoke Kentucky union officials' forced-dues and forced-fee privileges, the National Committee and its members gave encouragement and counsel to the state's freedom-loving citizens."

Last Year, Kentucky Attracted A Record $9.2 Billion In Corporate Investment

"All these efforts," Mr. Kalb continued, "came to fruition on January 7, 2017, when Mr. Bevin signed Right to Work measure H.B.1, declaring that it would mean 'incredible new opportunities for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.'"

More prescient words have rarely been spoken.

Last December 30, the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development (KCED) announced that the state had attracted a record $9.2 billion in "corporate expansion and new-location projects in 2017, bringing commitments to create more than 17,200 jobs," the most since 2000.

And this year the prospects for employees and businesses in Right to Work Kentucky have continued improving.

In May, for example, aluminum supplier Novelis broke ground on a $305 million processing plant that will create 125 full-time jobs in Todd County.

Right to Work Attorneys Now Helping Defend Law From Big Labor Judicial Attack

That same month, California energy technology company EnerBlue officially transferred its headquarters to Lexington, Ky., and turned its attention to building a lithium battery factory that will employ up to 875 people roughly 275 miles away in Pikeville, Ky.

Mr. Kalb commented:

"In addition to fostering a better job climate, Kentucky's Right to Work law is ensuring that Bluegrass State employees are free to choose whether or not to fund a labor union with their hard-earned money.

"Unfortunately, Kentucky union bosses remain determined to destroy the state's year-and-a-half-old Right to Work law and restore their power to have a worker fired just for refusing to let them have a portion of his or her paycheck.

"This month, the Kentucky Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on a legal challenge to H.B.1 that, if successful, will bring back compulsory unionism even though the state's voters have resoundingly rejected it at the polls."

Acting on behalf of three independent-minded Kentucky employees, staff attorneys for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Committee's sister organization, have submitted a court brief urging rejection of the Big Labor suit.

Mr. Kalb predicted that Kentucky's Supreme Court would ultimately uphold Right to Work protections for employees, just as other state and federal courts have done time and again.

"All the same," he said, "it's a shame that the union hierarchy is so determined to dictate whether or not an individual worker can get and keep a job."

Presidential 'Step in the Right Direction'

Limits Big Labor's Privilege to Bill Taxpayers For Union Business

National Right to Work leaders, who urged Donald Trump when he first took office to use his executive power to curtail government union bosses' ability to conduct union business while billing taxpayers for their time and expenses, are moderately encouraged by a presidential executive order issued this spring.

Executive Order 13837, signed by the President on May 25, and implementing regulations officially released a few weeks later address the abusive practice known as "official time." Official time stems from widespread union monopoly bargaining at federal agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

According to the White House's Office of Personnel Management, in 2016 federal employees racked up a total of 3.6 million official time hours during which they were paid by taxpayers to represent a government union rather than carry out the missions of their agencies.

Credit: Bill Shorr/Cagle Cartoons

Legislation repealing the statutory authorization for monopoly bargaining in the federal government is the genuine solution for Big Labor-generated inefficiencies and corruption at troubled federal agencies like the VA.

Union Bosses Have Been Paid by the Government To Sue the Government!

E.O.13837 aims to lessen the anti-taxpayer impact of official time by prohibiting lobbying while on federal time, prohibiting government managers from allowing union bosses to use federal property for free, and prohibiting the use of federal time to file union grievances against federal employers.

"For decades," noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King, "union bosses have been paid by the federal government to file 'unfair labor practice' claims against the government, often on behalf of unmotivated and/or unruly federal employees.

"This is a completely indefensible misuse of taxpayers' money, and it is commendable of President Trump to attempt to put a stop to it.

"But official time is only a manifestation of an underlying problem that needs to be dealt with through federal legislation."

Ms. King continued: "Federal union operatives' taxpayer-funded exploitation of the grievance process to thwart efforts to remove poor performers and disciplinary problems from the workforce illustrates why the so-called Civil Service 'Reform' Act [CSRA] ought to be repealed by Congress as soon as possible."

The CSRA, signed by Big Labor President Jimmy Carter in 1978, statutorily imposes union monopoly bargaining over employee disciplinary procedures and other work rules.

Effectively, this four-decade-old law makes power-mad federal union bosses like American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) President J. David Cox co-managers over hundreds of thousands of civil service employees.

Top Bosses of Government Unions Are Now Suing the Trump Administration

"E.O.13837 is a step in the right direction," explained Ms. King.

"But until the day Congress finally steps up to the plate and repeals all the monopoly-bargaining provisions in the CSRA, federal taxpayers, conscientious civil servants, and Americans who depend on assistance from federal agencies like the VA will continue to get hurt."

As this Newsletter edition goes to press in early July, it is not even clear if the modest reform embodied by E.O.13837 will stand.

Mr. Cox and other AFGE officials, along with the hierarchies of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) and a number of other government unions, have already filed suit against the Trump Administration.

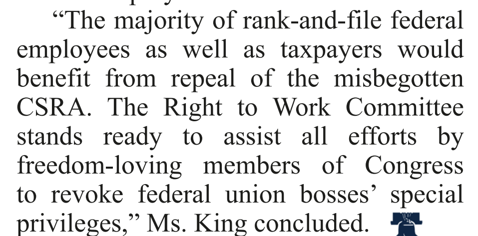
Their goal is to overturn E.O.13837 and other executive actions taken by the President to improve the operations of the federal government.

"As a consequence of congressionally-authorized union monopoly bargaining, federal union kingpins are basically accountable only to themselves," charged Ms. King.

She cited a poll conducted in June by the Government Business Council, the research arm of Government Executive Media Group, showing that by a two-to-one margin federal workers actually support the Trump Administration's efforts to remove impediments to the dismissal of poorly performing employees.

The same poll found that well over half of federal employees have a "neutral," "negative," or "very negative" view of federal employee unions.

"The majority of rank-and-file federal employees as well as taxpayers would benefit from repeal of the misbegotten CSRA. The Right to Work Committee stands ready to assist all efforts by freedom-loving members of Congress to revoke federal union bosses' special privileges," Ms. King concluded.



Forced Dues For UAW Miscreants?

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of the widening scandal implicating UAW bosses and FCA executives.

"Under Section 9(a) of the Taft-Hartley Act," he noted, "Organized Labor bosses wield the power to force individual employees, whether they want a union or not, to accept it as their monopoly-bargaining agent."

Forced Unionism Binds Workers So They Can't Counter Suspected Corruption

"And as a consequence of a handful of other special-interest provisions in federal labor law," Mr. Mix added, "thousands of production employees in auto assembly plants located in Illinois and Ohio, two states that still lack Right to Work laws, continue to be forced to pay union dues or fees to the tainted UAW.

"If they refuse, they can be fired.

"On the other hand, FCA, GM and Ford employees in Right to Work states like Michigan, Texas, Kentucky and Indiana are free to protest allegedly rampant union corruption by resigning from the UAW and cutting off all financial support for it, without having to lose their jobs."

Mr. Mix added that, among the 28 states that have enacted Right to Work laws, Missouri is the only one where auto assembly workers are still being forced to pay union dues or fees to the very UAW that federal prosecutors have described as a "coconspirator" in systematic labor-law violations.

He explained: "Missouri is different from other states that have enacted Right to Work laws."

Quirk in State Code Used to Block Right To Work Implementation

Big Labor has been able to use a quirk in the Missouri legal code to block implementation of an 18 month-old Right to Work statute by gathering petitions from roughly one-sixth as many citizens as those voting for the unabashedly pro-Right to Work gubernatorial candidate on the ballot in 2016.

The Big Labor petition drive also imposed a requirement that, unless voters who already elected a pro-Right to Work governor and hefty pro-Right to Work legislative majorities reaffirm their opposition to forced unionism in a statewide vote, the Right to Work law will be permanently wiped off the books.

If union bosses and their propagandists now stop passage of Missouri's Proposition A, which will be considered by the state's voters on August 7, employees who suspect union bosses are misappropriating funds will continue to be prevented from fighting back by refusing to pay any union dues or fees.

Auto union officials who are facing FBI questions about their silent acquiescence to or their active participation in the looting of worker training center funds are far from the only unsavory Organized Labor figures who will gain if Proposition A loses.

This spring, former federal prosecutor Joseph diGenova, the independent investigations officer (IIO) appointed by the Teamsters Union under a consent agreement with the U.S. Justice Department, ratcheted up a probe into potential illegal conflicts of interest reaching into the union's highest ranks.

Jim Hoffa, Other Suspect Teamster Kingpins Would Also Gain From Proposition A Defeat

According to a May 10 AP news story by Mike Schneider, Mr. diGenova is investigating "whether top Teamster leaders accepted undisclosed gifts from a business that brokered health benefits for the union."

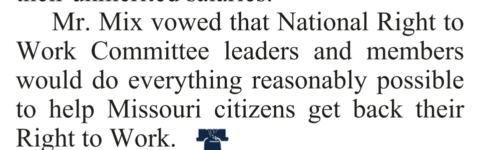
His subpoena "seeks records showing whether Teamster officials were given undisclosed golf outings, expensive meals or tickets to sporting events."

It also seeks "any evidence that may exist about whether Teamsters officers were hired by the providers or broker and whether payments were made to Teamster officials, including its top leader, James Hoffa, or their relatives."

"Compulsory union dues and fees help Big Labor bosses run their organizations for their own benefit, at workers' expense," said Mr. Mix.

"It will be a shame if the massive Big Labor propaganda blitz now underway in the Show-Me State succeeds in enabling apparently ethically impaired union bosses like Gary Jones and Jim Hoffa to continue forcing Missouri workers to pay their unmerited salaries."

Mr. Mix vowed that National Right to Work Committee leaders and members would do everything reasonably possible to help Missouri citizens get back their Right to Work.



Credit: Wikimedia

Compulsory unionism helps union bosses like Teamsters chief Jim Hoffa run their organizations for their own benefit, at employees' expense. In June, the Teamsters hierarchy donated a million dollars in cash to help kill Missourians' Right to Work.

Shady Union Bosses Win If Right To Work Loses

Will Missouri Autoworkers Keep Being Forced to Bankroll UAW Dons?

The scandal implicating several top officers of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union along with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) executives that first became national news in July 2017 has now reached an even higher level of severity.

Three former members of the UAW's FCA negotiating team have already been charged with, and two have already pleaded guilty to, participating in a years-long scheme to steal millions of dollars from a worker training center funded by FCA.

And media reports indicate several other former and current UAW bosses are now under investigation by the FBI for suspected misappropriation of National Training Center (NTC) funds for the benefit of themselves and/or their friends and relatives.

In June, the Detroit *News* reported that prosecutors had begun labeling the UAW union and the FCA corporation themselves, along with crooked UAW bosses and FCA executives, as "coconspirators" in a scheme to systematically violate federal labor law.

If a guilty plea recently entered by former auto executive Michael Brown (inset) is accurate, it almost certainly shows that now-UAW President Gary Jones was involved in a conspiracy to pilfer money from a worker training fund.

Party For UAW Veep Allegedly Funded With $30,000 From Training Center

As examples of flagrant abuse of funds supposedly set aside to benefit workers, the *News* cited payments of $436,000 to a company controlled by then-UAW Vice President General Holiefield (who passed away in 2015) and his widow, Monica Morgan-Holiefield, and $262,000 to pay off the Holiefields' mortgage.

Another $30,000 in training center money was allegedly spent "throwing a party" in 2014 for former UAW Vice President Norwood Jewell:

"The party included 'ultra-premium' liquor, strolling models who lit labor leaders' cigars and a $3000 tab for wine in bottles with custom labels that featured Jewell's name."

(Mr. Jewell has yet to be charged with any crime, but he reportedly remains under investigation.)

A guilty plea entered by former FCA executive Michael Brown in late May revealed, for the first time, that investigators believe NTC funds were funneled not just to UAW and FCA officials, but also to the coffers of UAW itself.

The May 25 plea states that, from 2009 to 2015, Mr. Brown, who helped run the FCA training center, and other FCA executives authorized Mr. Holiefield and other powerful UAW bosses to "offer sham employment status at the NTC to a number of their friends, families and allies."

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Allegedly Funneled Illegally Into UAW Treasuries

Cronies of the UAW brass on the UAW payroll were allegedly placed under a phony "special assignment" status at the NTC.

Subsequently, hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments were made to the UAW "in the guise of reimbursement for 100% of the salaries and benefits the UAW paid to members of the UAW International Staff," even though it was understood "those individuals did little or no work on behalf of the NTC."

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"It strains credibility that recently installed UAW President Gary Jones, who once was the international union's chief accountant and has been a member of the UAW executive board since 2013, could have been unaware of the fact that the NTC was being looted."

As Scandal Unfolds, Workers Are Forced by Federal Law To Keep Paying Dues to UAW

Mr. Mix added that forced unionism is "an important and underreported aspect"

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