NATIONAL
RIGHT TO WORK
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 9 www.nrtwc.org September 2018

Force Taxpayers to Bankroll Government Unions?

Big Labor Politicians Plot to Circumvent High Court Decision

Thanks to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court victory won by Illinois civil servant Mark Janus, with the assistance of a legal team led by Right to Work staff attorney Bill Messenger, government union bosses now face the potential loss of hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars in coerced dues and fees.

In *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, the High Court recognized, for the first time, that it is flat-out unconstitutional for government union chiefs and public employers to cut deals forcing civil servants to pay for the advocacy of a union they would never voluntarily join, or be fired.

'Employees [Must] Clearly And Affirmatively Consent Before Any Money Is Taken'

Union-label legislators and governors who have largely depended on Big Labor's forced dues-funded largesse to get elected and reelected are obviously afraid of what will happen once their patrons have to depend on genuinely voluntary support from members for their future funding.

To ensure that frightening scenario never materializes, months before the *Janus* decision was announced, politicians in many of the roughly two dozen states where forced government-sector union dues were still permissible pre-*Janus* began introducing and adopting countermeasures.

The language of the *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31* ruling is unambiguous:

"Neither an agency fee nor any other payment to the union may be deducted from a nonmember's wages, nor may any other attempt be made to collect such a payment, unless the [public] employee affirmatively consents to pay.

"By agreeing to pay, nonmembers are waiving their First Amendment rights, and such a waiver cannot be presumed. . . .

"Unless [public] employees clearly and affirmatively consent before any money is taken from them, this standard cannot be met."

But this blunt admonition to state policymakers from Associate Justice Samuel Alito's majority opinion, in which he was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Neil Gorsuch, is being blatantly ignored in some cases.

Credit: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

If New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's ongoing efforts to prevent public employees from exercising their *Janus* rights fall short, his next move may well be to "tap taxpayers, rather than union members, to fund unions' operations."

'It Is the [Forced Dues-Funded] Union Movement That Drives the Democratic Party'

State lawmakers and executives in Big Labor strongholds like New York, California and Hawaii are doing

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Supreme Court Resisted

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everything they believe they feasibly can to deter educators, public safety officers, and other government employees from ever exercising their right to resign from, or never join, an unwanted union.

Empire State Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo has even publicly defended union bosses' prerogative to trample workers' First Amendment rights on the grounds that "it is the [forced dues-funded] union movement that drives the Democratic Party."

A July 20 New York *Daily News* commentary by Daniel DiSalvo, an associate professor of political science at the City College of New York and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, highlighted several ways in which the Cuomo Administration is striving to prop up the Big Labor political machine.

For example, according to Dr. DiSalvo, New York State's Labor Department is currently regarding many government workers as "union members," and automatically deducting union dues from their paychecks, even though the union cannot produce any signed document confirming the workers actually are members.

If a worker's name appears on a union membership list, but there is no tangible evidence the worker ever actually chose to be a member, it still counts as "affirmatively consenting" to pay for all kinds of union-boss advocacy, according to the Cuomo team.

Dr. DiSalvo pungently summed up the Cuomo Administration's stance:

"[W]hoever the union says is a member is a member."

'Workaround' Would Let Union Dons Continue Cashing in Even If They Lose Members

Ultimately, the schemes hatched by Mr. Cuomo and other like-minded politicians in New York and other Big Labor-dominated states to keep workers strapped to the mast of monopolistic unionism despite the fact there is no clear evidence they wanted to be members in the first place may well be blocked in court.

In fact, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and the National Right to Work Committee are already helping independent-minded civil servants in a number of states prepare challenges to recently-concocted state statutes and regulations aimed at keeping coerced union dues flowing into government union coffers.

Aware that *Janus*-evasion strategies that maintain the pretense that government unions are workers' organizations are far from guaranteed to succeed, some diehard Big Labor proponents are already pushing for a more radical response to *Janus*.

In July, *Reason* magazine reporter Eric Boehm described a legislative proposal drafted by New York State Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) that goes down this road.

The Gottfried measure (which had yet to be formally introduced when this Newsletter edition went to press) would, in Mr. Boehm's words, "tap taxpayers, rather than union members, to fund unions' operations."

Specifically, Mr. Gottfried would "redirect funds that could otherwise go to workers' paychecks to cover the unions' operating expenses."

'The Collectively Bargained Amount' Would 'Proportionally Reduce the Workers' Salary'

According to Mr. Boehm, in a memo distributed to select fellow members of the New York Assembly, Mr. Gottfried explained that his bill would let "public employers agree to 'direct reimbursement' of the unions' bargaining costs as part of contract negotiations."

"The collectively bargained amount would then proportionally reduce the workers' salary," Mr. Gottfried wrote.

National Right to Work Committee and Foundation President Mark Mix commented:

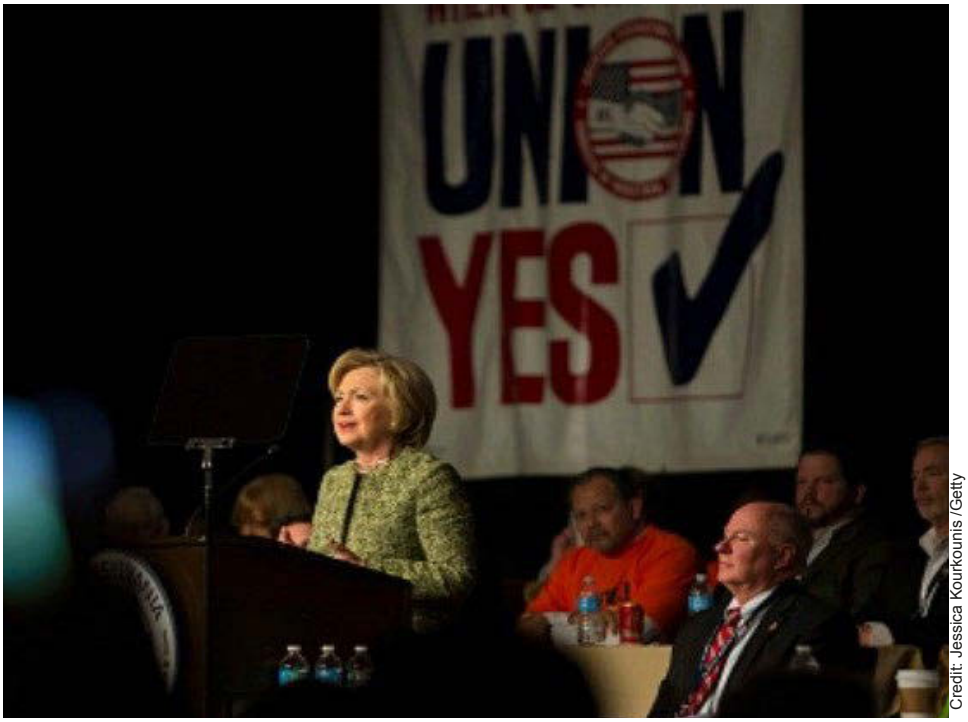
"For the time being, Gov. Cuomo and other top-ranking Big Labor politicians in New York and their counterparts in states like California and New Jersey appear hesitant to embrace the concept of direct taxpayer funding of government unions.

"Even some government union officials are publicly saying, for now, that, as grateful as they are to Mr. Gottfried and other Big Labor partisans with similar ideas for thinking of them, they don't want that kind of 'help.'

"However, if over the next few months a substantial share of the roughly five million public employees who were forced, pre-*Janus*, to join or bankroll a union cease doing so as their *Janus* rights are implemented, Mr. Cuomo and the bosses of the national government unions may change their minds.

"Then, the 2.8 million National Right to Work Committee members will face major battles to protect New York, California, New Jersey, and other taxpayers from being forced to fund unions.

"These battles could be brutal, but Committee members will be fully prepared for them."



Credit: Jessica Kourkounis /Getty

In 2016, government union chiefs poured forced-dues and forced-fee money extracted from millions of civil servants into a nationwide effort to elect Hillary Clinton. Now those same union bosses are desperately seeking a viable *Janus* "workaround."

Government Should Not Collect Union Dues

Taxpayer-Funded Bureaucrats Ought Not Do Union Dons' Job For Them

Now that the constitutional right of public employees nationwide to join and pay dues to a union, or refuse to do either, has finally been recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court, it is an opportune time for state lawmakers to do what they can to make sure this right is practicable.

A modest, but significant step that has already been taken by elected officials in several Right to Work states, and should be replicated across the country, is prohibiting the automatic deduction of union dues from public employees' paychecks.

'There's No Legitimate Public-Policy Reason to Subsidize Government Union Activities'

As federal Judge Joel Flaum pointed out in a 2013 opinion upholding one state's ban on automatic payroll deductions of union dues, "use of a state's payroll systems to collect union dues is a state subsidy of speech . . . ."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb observed:

"There's no legitimate public policy reason to subsidize government union activities with taxpayer-funded resources.

"Moreover, experience shows that, once their employer ceases taking their union dues out of their paychecks at taxpayers' expense, and they have to take active measures to continue bankrolling the union, public employees often decide the organization does not merit their financial support."

Automatic Payroll Deductions Help Union Officials Avoid A Layer of Accountability

Mr. Kalb continued: "Of course, until early this summer, government union bosses in more than 20 states retained the power to force public servants to pay dues or fees to their organization as a condition of employment.

"In such states, bans on automatic payroll deduction were not really worthwhile.

"But in its June 27 *Janus* ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court, prompted by Right to Work attorneys' constitutional arguments, concluded that government-sector forced union dues and fees violate the First Amendment.

"Effectively, a national Right to Work law for America's public servants was established."

Credit: AP file photo/ Kevin Glackmeyer

In a 2014 open letter to Alabama teacher union officials, former state teacher union President Paul Hubbert admitted that the loss of automatic "payroll deduction" privileges was a key reason the union's finances were deteriorating rapidly.

Mr. Kalb continued: "Now that statutes authorizing public-sector forced union dues and fees are no longer enforceable in states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire, it makes sense for lawmakers to ensure ongoing union dues payments are a conscious and considered choice.

"Union bosses want taxpayers to finance payroll deductions because they save Big Labor time and money by doing what most other non-charitable organizations have to do on their own.

"No government has any business helping Organized Labor officials in this way."

The case of Alabama, which has had a Right to Work law on the books since 1953, illustrates just how valuable such government assistance can be to union bigwigs.

Payroll Deduction Privileges Helped Make Government Union 'Dominant Power' in Alabama

With government bureaucrats' serving as its dues collector, the Alabama Education Association (AEA/NEA) teacher union was for decades a "vaunted force" in Yellowhammer State politics, as Mike Cason of the Alabama Media Group reported in 2014.

But that same year, the "dominant power" of AEA union bosses over state politics began to dwindle as the Alabama Accountability Act (AAA), a 2011 law barring automatic payroll deductions for government unions, finally withstood a Big Labor legal challenge and took effect.

In September 2014, former AEA chief Paul Hubbert (who has since passed away) sent an open letter to the union's board of directors warning that the union was facing a financial "crisis" and acknowledging that Big Labor bosses' loss of automatic "payroll deduction" was a key reason why.

In January 2016, the Montgomery *Advertiser* reported that the AEA teachers union, which had been, in writer Brian Lyman's words, "the engine of Democratic politics in Alabama," would halt making direct political contributions during the 2015-2016 cycle.

Mr. Kalb concluded: "The *Janus* decision was a monumental Right to Work victory, but in itself will not prevent government union bosses from wielding inordinate power over tax, education, and other important public policies.

"An array of additional state-level reforms are necessary to eliminate the special privileges the government union elite continues to enjoy in many states post-*Janus*.

"And elimination of automatic government payroll deductions for Big Labor is a good first step."

Teacher Union Chiefs Lower Educator Salaries

Big Labor Bosses Benefit, But 'No Current or Future Teacher Wins'

Government union officials like National Education Association (NEA) union President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia and American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) union President Randi Weingarten like to portray themselves as staunch advocates of higher salaries for K-12 public educators.

But for decades NEA and AFT union bosses have wielded their forced dues-fueled political clout and their monopoly-bargaining privileges to REDUCE the share of public school expenditures that goes into teacher salaries.

Largely in order to try to fulfill exorbitant pension promises wrung out of public officials by union kingpins, expenditures on pensions for K-12 retirees have nearly quadrupled since 2001.

Forced-Dues Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut Among the 'Worst Offenders'

Skyrocketing spending on pensions and other noncash benefits obviously leaves less money available for K-12 salaries. Moreover, only the minority of teachers who remain in the profession for 30 years or more potentially stand to benefit from the trade-offs teacher union bosses have made.

In an illuminating analysis published in July by *The 74*, a news site dedicated to advancing the interests of the 74 million Americans who are under the age of 18, education policy expert and former Obama Administration official Chad Aldeman discussed how rapidly rising pension costs are hurting current teachers.

Drawing on data furnished by Boston College's Center for Retirement Research, Mr. Aldeman has estimated that annual state and district spending on teacher pensions increased by roughly 261% between 2001 and 2016.

Chart Bellwether Education Partners

Union bosses are culpable for the surge in public pension costs decried by education policy expert Chad Aldeman.

Practically all if not all 50 states have recently been increasing pension contribution rates and cutting pension benefits in order to make up for decades of recklessness.

Big Labor politicians aiming to please government union bosses without sparking a taxpayer revolt lavishly enhanced educator pension benefit formulas even as they cut contribution rates.

And teacher union bosses, apparently calculating that taxpayers would ultimately be left to pay the bill for massive shortfalls, quietly encouraged politicians to underfund educator pensions.

In his July 12 commentary, Mr. Aldeman specifically mentions four forced-unionism stronghold states, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and Illinois, as being "among the worst offenders" in terms of "adequately funding their teacher pension plans."

He also asks what teacher salaries would be today "if states had been more responsible and agreed to put any new money directly into teachers' pockets, rather than making pension promises."

Costs 'Now Outweigh Even The Highest Back-End Benefits Awarded'

Hypothetically, were it not for the pension fiasco NEA and AFT union bosses helped engineer, "states and school districts would be able to spend" about $4300 more "per teacher per year," equivalent to giving every teacher an immediate 7.2% raise!

In theory, the relatively few teachers who stay in the profession for their entire careers could ultimately receive enough in retirement benefits to make up for the salary losses they suffer as a consequence of the pension schemes Big Labor bosses helped forge and defend even today.

But Mr. Aldeman believes it is highly unlikely any teacher who is still teaching today will benefit: "[I]n reality, the costs of paying for teacher pension plans now outweigh the highest back-end benefits awarded to long-term teachers."

This is "essentially a giant transfer of wealth from one generation to the next, and no current or future teacher wins from this arrangement."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"While both current and future teachers are certainly getting paid less as a consequence of the outrageous pension deals cut by union bosses and complaisant public officials, Big Labor has so far successfully evaded responsibility.

"For decades, union bigwigs took the credit for negotiating seemingly attractive pensions for educators. But sufficient funds were never there, and the union brass must have known it.

"The fraud that NEA and AFT union bosses have perpetrated on teachers as well as taxpayers illustrates why they should never have been handed monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges."

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

www.nrtwc.org **September 2018**

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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Right to Work States Dominate Auto Production

South Carolina BMW Plant Employment Projected to Rise to 11,000

The extraordinary success of BMW's factory located in Right to Work South Carolina, documented in detail this July in reports for the Associated Press (AP) and the New York *Times*, is illustrative of how states with laws prohibiting compulsory union dues and fees dominate U.S. auto production today.

As the July 11 AP news story noted, BMW's South Carolina plant, located near Spartanburg in the state's Upcountry region, now produces roughly 400,000 vehicles annually.

More than two-thirds of these U.S.-assembled vehicles are exported abroad to China, Germany, and other countries.

'Good Cars Can Be Made at a Reasonable Cost in the U.S.'

Since the South Carolina plant opened in 1994, BMW has poured nearly $9 billion into its U.S. operations. According to the AP, this facility now produces BMW's X3, X4, X5 and X6 models.

Production of the new X7 model is expected to begin in South Carolina later this year.

Over the course of the next three years, the company plans to invest an additional $600 million in Right to Work South Carolina and add 1,000 jobs, bringing BMW's total employment in the Upcountry to 11,000.

Reflecting on the impact of BMW's historic decision to open a U.S. factory late in 20th Century, Erik Gordon of the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business has observed:

"The plant overcame qualms to show the world that good cars can be made at a reasonable cost in the U.S. That led to a renaissance in carmaking . . . ."

As of 2016, 72% of U.S. Auto Production Occurred In Right to Work States

Compensation of BMW's employees in Right to Work South Carolina is very attractive, especially given the state's low cost of living.

Moreover, as an article by reporter Christopher Rauwala published in *Automotive News Europe* in 2014 noted, the BMW factory features "state-of-the-art automation" such as robots whose "flexible arms . . . help workers lock in plastic frames inside a door, relieving them of tasks that can cause wrist injuries."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented that the very flexible work rules that industry observers recognize as key to BMW's success in South Carolina are endemic to states that prohibit forced union dues.

"Right to Work states represent the future of the U.S. auto industry," said Mr. Leen.

"As recently as 2006, U.S. Commerce Department Bureau of Economic Analysis [BEA] data show that less than 28% of the total American output in automotive manufacturing took place in Right to Work states.

"By 2016, the most recent year for which such data are available, Right to Work states combined, then 26 in number, yielded 72% of U.S. production in this sector, in dollar terms.

"Most of the Right to Work growth can be accounted for by the fact that two of the four states that enacted Right to Work laws between 2012 and 2016 are Michigan and Indiana, respectively #1 and #2 in automotive output. But this is far from the whole story.

"Excluding the four states that enacted Right to Work laws between 2012 and 2016 from the U.S. total, and considering just the 22 states that had already banned forced unionism in 2006, the Right to Work share of automotive output grew from 42% to 55% over the next decade."

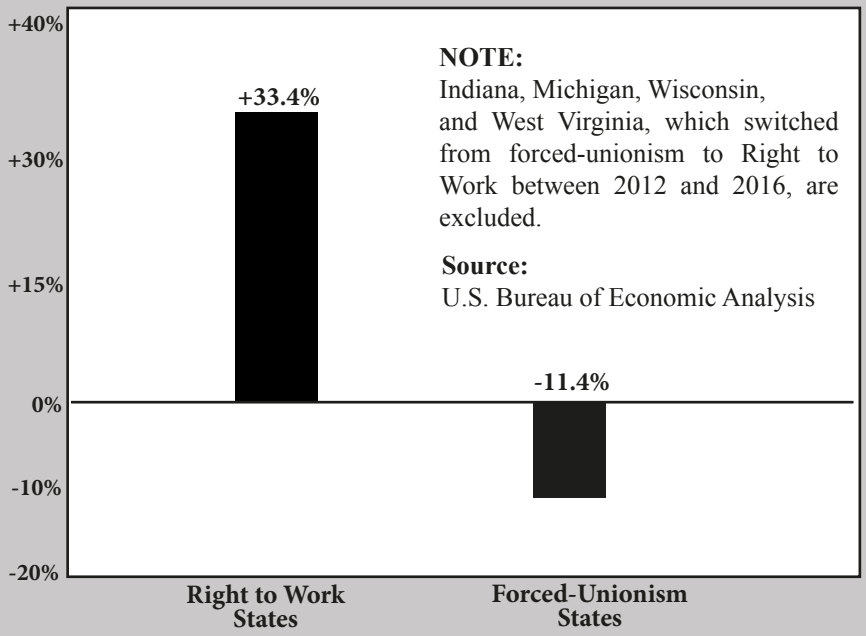
Right to Work Output Rises Rapidly as Forced-Unionism Output Declines Significantly

"Real automotive manufacturing GDP in these 22 states grew by 33% from 2006 to 2016, but it fell by 11% in the 24 states that were still forced-unionism as of the end of 2016," Mr. Leen continued.

"The overwhelming advantage Right to Work states have enjoyed over forced-unionism states in attracting automotive manufacturing investment ought to spur legislators to take action in Ohio, Illinois, and other struggling states where involuntary union dues and fees are still permitted."

Mr. Leen vowed that the National Committee and its members would do everything possible to assist grassroots efforts to abolish compulsory unionism in the states that continue to lack Right to Work protections today.

Change in Automotive Manufacturing GDP, 2006-2016
Right to Work States vs. Forced-Unionism States



Excluding the four states that banned forced unionism between 2012 and 2016, the share of all automotive production occurring in Right to Work states rose from 42% in 2006 to 55% in 2016.

Freedom of Association Only Partially Protected

Government Unionism Still Being Foisted on Dissenting Employees

While the U.S. Supreme Court recently took a significant step toward restoring government employees' personal freedom to choose whether or not to associate with a labor organization, it also left in place widespread statutory provisions that put each unionized worker under a powerful compulsion.

In *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, a case in which the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation furnished free legal assistance to the plaintiff, a High Court majority ruled that it violates the First Amendment to force public workers to pay money to a labor union as a condition of continued public employment.

Janus effectively made all 50 states Right to Work states for educators, public-safety officers, and other state and local public servants. This represents remarkable progress.

However, the *Janus* decision did not address the constitutionality of what economist Charles Baird, professor emeritus at California State University, East Bay, aptly calls "an equally burdensome affront to individual liberty in government employment," so-called "exclusive representation."

Credit: NRTWLOF

***Janus*, in which Right to Work staff attorney Bill Messenger (right, pictured here with Committee President Mark Mix) was the plaintiff's lead counsel, established one key thing: Government-sector forced union fees are unconstitutional.**

Justice Alito: 'Exclusivity' Substantially 'Restricts the Rights of Individual Employees'

In jurisdictions where such "exclusivity" is authorized and promoted, a union may acquire the power, in Dr. Baird's words again, "to represent the workers who voted for it, the workers who voted against it, and the workers who didn't vote."

In a constitutional republic like the United States, it is common for private organizations to make internal decisions by majority vote, but unacceptable for any private organization to be accorded power by the government to force private individuals to associate with it.

Justice Samuel Alito's *Janus* majority opinion, which was announced on June 27, acknowledged that "[d]esignating a union as the employees' exclusive representative substantially restricts the rights of individual employees."

How, then, did the *Janus* Court not find government-sector union monopoly bargaining to be in violation of the First Amendment?

Even though the Supreme Court ruled against union officials and their lawyers on *Janus*' core issue of public-sector forced union dues and fees, all nine justices apparently granted Big Labor's outlandish premise that union monopoly bargaining may advance "compelling government interests."

Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee as well as the Right to Work Foundation, commented:

"Part of the *Janus* opinion actually states that banning compelled employee financial support for government unions is acceptable because such a ban will not prevent government union bosses from exercising their powers as public employees' monopoly bargaining agents!

"Although this aspect of *Janus* is disappointing, Right to Work attorneys are continuing to seek out public-sector employee clients who are interested in fighting for their right not to be represented by an unwanted union. This is the next mission."

State Lawmakers Still Have The Ability and the Duty To Protect Employees

Of course, judges are not the only people who have the authority to redress constitutional wrongs.

"When a state law violates the U.S. Constitution," explained Mr. Mix, "state lawmakers and chief executives have the ability and the duty to repeal or amend the law to bring it into accord with the Constitution, regardless of what the judiciary decides to do.

"The vast majority of the 50 states currently have statutes on the books forcing some or all types of public employees to be subject to union monopoly bargaining in order to work for taxpayers.

"Post-*Janus*, none of these monopoly-bargaining laws actually forces employees to support financially a union they wouldn't join voluntarily.

"However, as the late Thomas E. Harris, then a top AFL-CIO lawyer, acknowledged back in 1962, union officials often use their monopoly-bargaining privileges like a cattle prod to herd more workers under their control, and punish those who resist.

"'The fact that the union will negotiate the contract which regulates the incidents of [a worker's] industrial life puts him under powerful compulsion to join the union,' said Mr. Harris.

"This observation remains true today. That's why the fight against government-sector compulsory unionism won't truly be over until union 'exclusivity' is barred in all 50 states."

Rights Still Unvindicated

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same core protections against compulsory financial support for labor organizations that government employees now enjoy thanks to *Janus*."

For more than eight decades, federal labor policy covering private-sector workplaces has explicitly authorized the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues to a union, even if they don't want it and never asked for it.

Unless private-sector unionized employees are protected by a state Right to Work law, they may be forced on pain of firing to pay tribute to the union wielding monopoly-bargaining privileges in their workplace.

But if the National Right to Work Act, respectively introduced in the U.S. House and Senate as H.R.785 and S.545, becomes law, this unwarranted and government-promoted restriction on the private employee's freedom of association will become a thing of the past.

The Worker Is Best Judge of Whether Monopoly Bargaining Is Personally 'Beneficial'

And this legislation would put a stop to forced union dues and fees without adding a word to federal law.

Instead, H.R.785 and S.545 would simply repeal the current provisions in federal labor law that authorize and encourage the termination of employees for refusal to pay money to an unwanted union.

Mr. Mix noted that compulsory union dues are especially outrageous when the worker from whom they are extracted has good reason to believe he or she would be better off, economically speaking, union-free.

"Forced union dues for harmful 'representation' are a common occurrence," he explained.

Mr. Mix cited the admission of Dr. Sheldon Leader, a law professor who is generally strongly supportive of Organized Labor, that under monopoly bargaining workers who don't want a union are "often actually made worse off than they were before."

The eminent late Pennsylvania law professor Clyde Summers strongly concurred in his 1995 review of Dr. Leader's book, rejecting union-boss attempts to use monopoly bargaining as an excuse for forced union dues.

Under "exclusive" union representation, noted 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."

Mr. Mix commented:

"The worker is the best judge of whether he or she personally benefits from union monopoly bargaining. Unlike current federal labor law, H.R.785 and S.545 recognize this simple and important fact."

This summer, as part of its federal Survey 2018 program, the Committee has been mobilizing members and supporters in a number of targeted congressional districts and states to convince hitherto fence-sitting politicians to cosponsor national Right to Work legislation.

Forced-Dues Repeal Continues to Gain Support in Congress

Committee members and supporters are also asking congressional candidates who are not currently federal officeholders to pledge to support federal forced-dues repeal if elected.

"The Committee's federal candidate survey program, which recurs every election year, has a long, well-established track record of convincing both incumbent politicians and challengers to take public stands in support of Right to Work," said Mr. Mix.

Thanks largely to this year's federal survey, the number of H.R.785/S.545 sponsors had risen to 129 in the House and 30 in the Senate by the time this Newsletter edition went to press in early August.

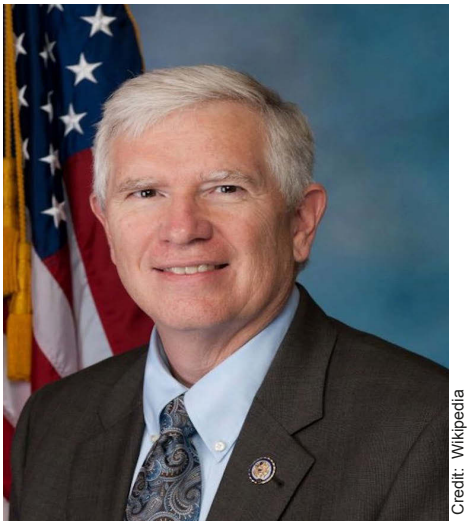
Among the House members who recently became Right to Work cosponsors after hearing from their freedom-loving constituents are Senate candidates Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.).

"Forced unionism is unjust to employees and unpopular with the general public. The ideal would be for all federal candidates to vow to oppose it," said Mr. Mix.

"At the very least, Right to Work members want one candidate in each closely contested race this November to be a credible opponent of Big Labor's monopoly privileges.

"And we are now making solid progress towards achieving that goal."

Credit: AP



Credit: Wikipedia

Credit: AP/Andrew Harnik

Among the U.S. House members who recently became cosponsors of the Right to Work Act after hearing from freedom-loving constituents mobilized by the Committee are Martha McSally (Ariz.), Mo Brooks (Ala., center), and Kevin Cramer (N.D.).

Private Employees Still Chained to Big Labor

High Court's Janus *Decision Unchained Government Employees*

When a small but determined coalition of freedom-loving employees and likeminded business owners formed the National Right to Work Committee in 1955, the ills of union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues were rampant in private workplaces, but nowhere to be found in the government sector.

Just a few years later, a New York City executive order and a Wisconsin state law authorizing so-called "exclusive" union representation in government workplaces marked the beginning of a decades-long journey towards pervasive, legally-authorized Big Labor coercion of public servants.

Early this summer, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Janus* case, argued and won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation staff attorney Bill Messenger, finally turned back the tide of forced union dues and fees in state and local public employment.

But the *Janus* ruling has no direct effect at all on the private-sector compulsory unionism that the Committee was originally formed to combat.

'The Most Powerful Legislative, Political, and Economic Lobby The World Has Ever Known'

Mark Mix, the president of the Right to Work Legal Foundation as well as the National Right to Work Committee, explained:

"Thanks to *Janus*, compulsory employee financial support for government-sector unionism is no longer legal anywhere in America.

"Of course, ensuring that government union bosses and Big Labor-backed public officials abide by this decision and stop threatening civil servants who don't want to join or bankroll their organizations with termination will require a lot of hard work and determination.

"But in the nearly two dozen 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.

"It was due to forced union dues and 'check-off' schemes targeting private-sector workers only that, six decades ago, Big Labor was already, as then-Right to Work President William Harrison put it in 1959, 'the most powerful legislative, political and economic lobby the world has ever known . . . .'"

"Today, in the wake of *Janus*, Big Labor retains monopoly-bargaining privileges over roughly 40% of state and local government employees nationwide -- privileges it did not have back in 1959 -- PLUS forced-dues power over millions of private-sector employees.

"Clearly, Americans who believe no worker should be forced to be represented by a union or bankroll a union as a condition of employment have work left to do before we can declare victory."

"Fortunately," Mr. Mix continued, "legislation that is already pending in Congress would guarantee that private-sector employees in all 50 states have the

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In America today, millions of private employees are still being fleeced by bosses of unions they would never voluntarily join, even after the U.S. Supreme Court declared similar schemes in the public sector to be unconstitutional.