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Your Trillion-Dollar Bailout For Union Bosses *Pelosi Scheme Rewards Tax & Spend & Borrow State Politicians*

Using the coronavirus pandemic and the economic shock resulting from political efforts to contain it as cover, Big Labor U.S. House members in Washington, D.C., have rubber-stamped a \$3 trillion, federal taxpayer-funded bailout package that rewards America's most fiscally irresponsible state politicians.

On May 15, the House briefly returned to Capitol Hill, in the middle of an extended recess that began back in March, to ram through, 208-199, bailout legislation (H.R.6800) cynically mislabeled as the "HEROES" Act.

Powerful government union bosses like Randi Weingarten, chief of the 1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers, and Lee Saunders, kingpin of the 1.4 million-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, heartily applauded.

Big Labor PR Blitz Pushes For No-Strings-Attached Bailouts, Politicians Nod

As *Politico* has reported, in early May, Mr. Saunders and his lieutenants began "hitting the national airwaves" with TV and Internet ads in key 2020 presidential and Senate battleground states, demanding that Congress adopt a new, no-strings-attached "relief" package for states and localities.

The Big Labor ads began running just weeks after Congress had okayed more than \$200 billion in direct aid, plus up to \$500 billion in loans, for state and local governments.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's [D-Calif.] obvious aim is, in the words of Stanford University finance professor Joshua Rauh, to turn 'coronavirus relief'



For years, many Big Labor state and local politicians have been digging deep fiscal holes for their taxpaying constituents. Nancy Pelosi's phony "coronavirus relief" bill would leave such taxpayers even deeper underground.

into a 'federal bailout of states and municipalities that have mismanaged their funds for decades . . .'

"She and House Majority Whip Steny Hoyer [D-Md.] acted with incredible speed to fulfill union bosses' wishes.

"On May 12, Ms. Pelosi and Mr. Hoyer unveiled H.R.6800, which includes nearly \$1.1 trillion in funds for state and local governments."

Forced-Dues States Have Long Been Bilking Taxpayers At Big Labor's Behest

"This enormous sum of money," Mr. Mix continued, "would supposedly go to help public officials close temporary

budget gaps that are direct results of coronavirus shutdowns.

"The reality is that the catastrophic deficits and soaring long-term debts now being reported by Big Labor-dominated states like New York, Illinois and California are primarily the result of chronic out-of-control spending and other poor budgetary decisions by union label-politicians.

"Of course, all 50 states are now hurting fiscally as a consequence of plummeting sales, personal income, and other tax revenues.

"But the enormous budget problems now faced by the Empire State, for example, obviously are rooted in longstanding policies that authorize the

See **Trillion** page 2

Credit: Michael Ramirez/Las Vegas Review-Journal, Creators

Trillion-Dollar Bailout

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firing of employees for refusal to pay union dues or fees as a job condition and grant monopoly privileges to government union bosses.

“As a May 18 Wall Street Journal editorial explained, New York politicians spend nearly twice as much per Medicaid beneficiary and six times as much on nursing homes as do their counterparts in Right to Work Florida.

“Union bosses who wield ‘exclusive’ bargaining power over employees at many nursing homes and hospitals in New York have exploited their political clout to make such facilities extraordinarily expensive.”

As costly as New York’s health care system is, its K-12 public education system may be even more wasteful.

In 2017, according to Cato Institute tax policy specialist Chris Edwards, New York spent \$69 billion on primary and secondary schools, nearly two-and-a-half times as much as Florida’s \$28 billion, even though more children are enrolled in Florida’s public schools than in New York’s.

If Enacted, Bailout Would ‘Inevitably Fuel Even More Wasteful Spending’

Meanwhile, a 2018 analysis by economist Stan Liebowitz and researcher Matthew Kelly, which adjusts for key demographic differences among public school students in different states, found that Florida’s educational outcomes are the third best in the nation, while New York comes in 31st.

“If H.R.6800 were to be enacted,” emphasized Mr. Mix, “it would inevitably fuel even more wasteful spending by states like New York, Illinois and California.

“Using FY 2020 projected revenues as a baseline, Moody’s Investor’s Service projects that state and local governments will lose a combined \$482 billion over the rest of this fiscal year and next year.

“The Pelosi scheme would make state and local governments, no matter how atrociously they have managed their money in the past, eligible for up to \$1.09 trillion in additional, ‘flexible’ aid during that time.

“That’s more than double their total anticipated coronavirus-related financial losses. And it’s on top of the hundreds of billions of dollars in federal aid they are already eligible to receive!”

Committee Leaders on Guard Against a Possible Phony ‘Compromise’

Just before the House roll-call on H.R.6800, during which Ms. Pelosi and Mr. Hoyer gave free passes to vote “no” to a handful of especially politically vulnerable Democrat members, while herding the rest into line, Mr. Mix contacted every member of the chamber to express the Committee’s strong opposition.

The so-called “HEROES” Act, wrote Mr. Mix, “would force American taxpayers to foot the bill for decades of government mismanagement caused by union monopoly bargaining.”

The COVID crisis, he added, should not be used “as an excuse to paper over decades of recklessness with a massive taxpayer-funded bailout.”

The subsequent House passage of H.R.6800 was a setback for Right to Work members and leaders.

However, this special-interest bill is such a transparent handout to Big Labor



Credit: Al Bello/Getty Images

Federal taxpayers shouldn’t have to pay for Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s (N.Y.) costly deals with Big Labor bosses.

governors like Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.), J.B. Pritzker (D-Ill.), and Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) that it is unlikely to pass the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has expressed his strong opposition, in its current form.

“The greatest danger at this time,” said Mr. Mix, “is a phony ‘compromise’ bailout that is less outrageous than H.R.6800, but still hands out billions and billions of dollars that Big Labor state and local politicians can use to cover expenses that did not arise from the COVID pandemic.

“The Committee is now preparing, as we must, to launch a full-scale lobbying campaign, involving Internet, phone and mail communications with hundreds of thousands of Right to Work supporters, as well as media ads, should any ‘unrestricted’ state government bailout legislation hit the Senate.

“Federal taxpayers, especially those who live in relatively fiscally responsible states, shouldn’t have to pay for Andrew Cuomo’s, J.B. Pritzker’s, or Gavin Newsom’s costly deals with union bosses.

“The Right to Work Committee will do everything necessary to make sure that never happens.” 🔔

Fight to End Compulsory Unionism by Contributing Appreciated Stock

Many National Right to Work Committee donors prefer to directly transfer shares of appreciated stock rather than giving cash contributions.

This is a smart strategy for donors who would owe a capital gains tax upon sale of the shares.

Instead of selling the shares, paying capital gains taxes and then using what is left of the proceeds

to make contributions . . .

. . . simply give the shares directly to a non-profit like the National Right to Work Committee.

As a non-profit, the Committee does not pay income or capital gains taxes when it sells your shares, so 100% of your stock gift will go directly to the Committee’s projects and activities.

For more information, see “Other Ways to Give” at <https://nrtwc.org/donate/other-ways-to-give/>. Or contact Matthew Leen, Vice President of Strategic Programs, at 703-321-9820, or email at mml@nrtwc.org.

Still Extorting Dues From Members Who Have Quit

Big Labor-Dominated Bureaucrats Enforce ‘Unconstitutional’ Scheme

When the militant union bosses who run the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU/AFT/AFL-CIO) ordered rank-and-file educators to go on strike last fall, many didn't want to walk out on their students.

Roughly 400 actually dared to defy CTU and other Big Labor kingpins and continue doing their jobs, to the extent they could, during the strike, according to a contemporaneous report by NBC Chicago's Mary Ann Ahern.

Among the Windy City teachers and other education professionals who stayed on the job were Ifeoma Nkemdi, who teaches second graders at Newberry Math and Science Academy, and Joanne Troesch, a technology coordinator at Jones College Prep.

‘[W]e Should Be Careful of Teaching [Schoolchildren] to Go to War With One Another’

Ms. Nkemdi and Ms. Troesch could not in good conscience support a strike that they believed, with ample cause, would hurt schoolchildren who already lack a number of amenities enjoyed by most of their counterparts across America.

They also believed the strike sent the wrong message to children about how to achieve their goals. As Ms. Nkemdi explained to CBS Chicago, “[W]e should be careful of teaching them to go to war with one another.”

But the two educators knew that CTU bosses were threatening to impose stiff penalties, potentially including multi-thousand-dollar fines, if they returned to work.

Before exercising their right to disobey union-boss strike orders, both investigated how they could work without being penalized by a union that they had joined only under duress.

Right to Work’s 2018 High Court Victory in *Janus* Unchained Civil Servants

In the course of their research, Ms. Nkemdi and Ms. Troesch each independently discovered, to her relief, that by formally resigning from the union public employees can strip Big Labor bosses of any legal power to penalize them for working during a strike to which they are opposed.

And they were surprised and happy to learn as well that union nonmembers,



Credit: Terrence Antonio James/Chicago Tribune

For over seven months, teacher Ifeoma Nkemdi (pictured) and school technology coordinator Joanne Troesch have been trying to stop bankrolling the Chicago Teachers Union. Now, with Right to Work help, they will have their day in court.

contrary to the impression CTU bosses and school officials had given them, have a constitutional right to work for taxpayers without being forced to pay any dues or fees to an unwanted union.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matt Leen explained:

“Two years ago, in *Janus v. AFSCME*, the U.S. Supreme Court definitively ruled that deals between Big Labor officials and employers making payment of forced dues or fees to a union a condition of public employment violate the First Amendment.

“The landmark *Janus* precedent was argued and won on behalf of then-Illinois civil servant Mark Janus by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation Staff Attorney Bill Messenger.

“Once they learned about *Janus* for the first time last fall, Ifeoma Nkemdi and Joanne Troesch promptly sent letters to CTU officials expressing their intent to exercise their *Janus* rights by resigning from the union and completely cutting off the deduction of union dues from their paychecks.

“Unfortunately, despite the Supreme Court’s crystal-clear admonition that the deduction of union dues or fees from public employee paychecks without their ‘clear and affirmative’ consent is unconstitutional, neither Ms. Nkemdi nor Ms. Troesch has yet been able to exercise her right to stop bankrolling the CTU.

“That’s why Mr. Messenger is now representing both educators in a federal class-action civil rights lawsuit against CTU bosses and the Chicago Board of Education.”

Monopoly-Bargaining Repeal Needed For Full Protection Of Freedom of Speech

Mr. Leen continued:

“Incredibly, union bosses and Chicago school officials are daring to suggest that so-called ‘check-off’ cards signed by Ms. Nkemdi, Ms. Troesch, and many other educators when they were unaware they had a constitutional right not to support the union hierarchy financially constitute ‘clear and affirmative’ consent.

“And union chiefs and the bureaucrats whom they have in their pockets claim that teachers can only withdraw their supposed ‘consent’ for being bilked by the CTU during a brief annual ‘escape period’ created by the union itself.

“Thanks to independent-minded civil servants like Ms. Nkemdi and Ms. Troesch, and Foundation attorneys, ‘escape periods’ may eventually be overturned in court. But full protection for civil servants’ freedom of speech will require liberating them from all union monopoly-bargaining control.” 

Union Corruption Monitor Getting the Brush Off?

Jim Hoffa Appears to Ignore Pending Charges Against Sidekick

In October 2017, a federally appointed independent review officer (IRO) found Teamster International Vice President Rome Aloise, union President Jim Hoffa's main power broker in the western U.S., guilty of multiple corruption charges.

For example, the IRO -- Judge Barbara Jones -- found that Mr. Aloise had illegally solicited tickets to an exclusive Super Bowl Playboy party from an employer with whom he was bargaining a union contract covering Teamster members.

She also found that he had wielded his monopolistic power as a Teamster officer to force two employers into hiring his cousin. And she found he had illegally used forced dues-laden treasury money to help an ally win a union local election.

Unfortunately, after being found guilty of having rampantly abused his power, Mr. Aloise was never criminally charged or even removed from office.

February 2020 Memorandum: Mr. Aloise Intimidated Unionists, Threatened Charity

Instead, Mr. Hoffa and other top Teamsters bosses opted merely to "suspend" Mr. Aloise from his offices for two years. During this "suspension," Mr. Aloise continued to attend union conferences and allegedly continued to run Teamster subsidiary outfits in California through surrogates.

Last December, this shady character reclaimed his position as Teamster vice president. Today he is again collecting multiple forced dues-funded union salaries, totaling roughly \$330,000 a year!

Mr. Aloise continues to abuse his office to quash challenges to his power and perks,



Credit: Teamsters for a Democratic Union

Union dons Jim Hoffa (left) and Rome Aloise are celebrating the end of direct federal oversight of the Teamsters.

according to Independent Investigations Officer (IIO) Joseph diGenova.

This February, Mr. diGenova submitted to the Teamster International Executive Board a 31-page memorandum charging that Mr. Aloise had flagrantly violated the terms of his suspension and retaliated against unionists for following the suspension order.

For example, in early 2019, Mr. Aloise allegedly threatened a non-profit charity if it didn't revoke an award to Teamster officer Rick Hicks, who had refused to allow his union headquarters to be used for an event Mr. Aloise planned to attend in violation of his suspension order.

Mr. diGenova concludes that Mr. Aloise's threat of financial ruin led to the revocation of the award, and that the Teamster bigwig committed an act of racketeering.

By mid-May, Teamster chiefs were obliged either to take action on the IIO's charges against Mr. Aloise, or refer them

to Judge Jones for a final ruling.

However, as this Newsletter edition goes to press in early June, there is no public information available indicating the executive board has done anything at all about the charges against Mr. Aloise.

Mark Mix: Labor Department Needs to Police Union Corruption More Aggressively

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"It is possible Jim Hoffa and his cohorts on the Teamster executive board are thinking they can get away with just ignoring the racketeering and other charges against Rome Aloise.

"That's because, on February 17, just three days after Mr. diGenova submitted to the board his memorandum laying out the latest allegations against Mr. Aloise, the ethically challenged Teamster hierarchy was effectively entrusted, for the first time in many years, with policing itself.

"The recent termination of direct federal oversight, originally consented to by Teamster bosses eager to avoid prosecution on an array of felony charges, was masterminded in 2015 by President Obama-appointed federal prosecutor Preet Bharara.

"This fulfilled a campaign promise Mr. Obama had reportedly made back in early 2008, when, according to a *Wall Street Journal* news account, he garnered Teamster bosses' endorsement by 'privately' telling them he 'supported ending the strict federal oversight imposed to root out corruption.'

"Fortunately, President Donald Trump's prosecutors and agency heads have generally proven themselves more willing to crack down on union corruption than Mr. Obama's."

One glaring exception, noted Mr. Mix, was consummate D.C. insider Arthur Rosenfeld, who headed the Labor Department's Office of Labor-Management Standards until he passed away in May. Since the critical position of OLMS director became vacant, he added, Right to Work leaders have been communicating with the Trump Administration about the need for more aggressive policing of union corruption.

Of course, the fact that Rome Aloise is still largely running Teamster operations on the West Coast, despite his record of corruption, is a key case in point. 📌

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Granite Staters Renew Right to Work Drive

Constituents Encourage Candidates to Oppose Compulsory Unionism

By early this summer, nearly all of the country was trying to rebound economically from spring's coronavirus shutdowns. Like nearly all other states, New Hampshire faces a steep climb just to get jobs and incomes back to where they were this February.

But unlike 27 of the 49 other states, New Hampshire lacks what decades of experience indicate is the most effective policy tool available for states seeking to increase employment opportunities: a Right to Work law protecting employees from forced union dues and fees.

Not a Single Employee Should Have to Pay Union Tribute as a Job Condition

New England Citizens for Right to Work, which aims to pass such a law in the Granite State, is now running its 2020 Candidate Survey Program for the September primary election.

Two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court found forced union dues and fees to be unconstitutional in the public sector in *Janus*, a case argued and won by a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation staff attorney.

Today, New Hampshire Right to Work advocates' goal is to ensure that not a single employee in their state has to pay tribute to the union bosses to avoid losing his or her job.

This summer, Granite Staters are fighting hard to convince state legislative candidates to support Right to Work. With just one special election earlier this year, all of the focus has been on the September 8 primaries and the November 3 general election.

Survey Program Cranks Up the Heat For September Primaries

The New England-based group, advised and supported by the National Right to Work Committee, will be contacting politicians of all stripes to urge them to oppose compulsory unionism across the board.

And thousands of New Hampshireites will be flooding state primary candidates with letters, postcards, and phone calls in support of Right to Work. The goal is to mobilize an avalanche of support for worker freedom by September 8.

Granite Staters, like other Americans,

favor freeing workers with a Right to Work law by an overwhelming margin.

All 400 state House seats and 24 state Senate seats are now potentially up for grabs. Candidate survey responses will reveal to the voters which candidates for office stand for employee freedom and which stand with the union bosses.

Forced Unionism Is Economically Harmful, as Well as 'Just Plain Wrong'

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb commented:

"Long, bitter experience has shown that when politicians refuse or neglect to answer their surveys, they tend to vote with Big Labor. The time to turn up the pressure is now when they are candidates, rather than when they are safely in office."

This summer and fall, concerned citizens in New Hampshire will, with the National Right to Work Committee's help, be trying to ensure that their state's economy isn't handicapped by compulsory unionism in the future.

"From 2008 to 2018," observed Mr. Kalb, "the population aged 35 to 54 grew by an average of 1.5% in Right to Work states, while it fell by 17.3% in New Hampshire, because employees in their prime earning years found better opportunities out of state

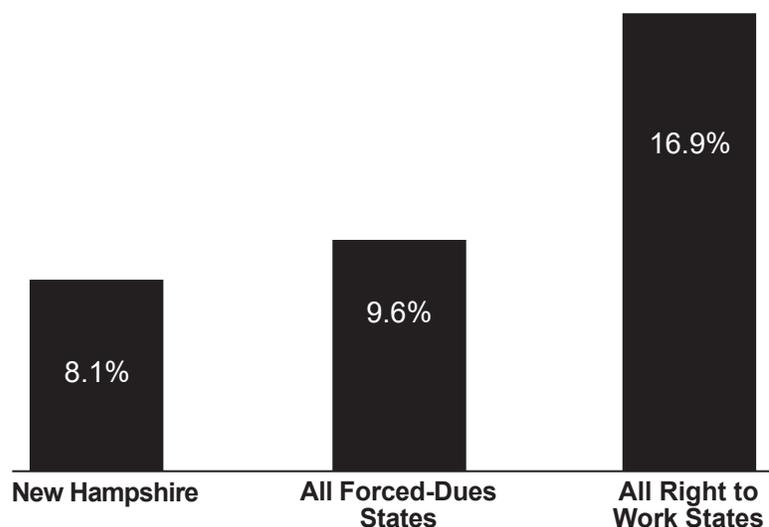
"And from 2009 to 2019, the total number of employed people in Right to Work states rose by 16.9%, a percentage gain more than twice as great as New Hampshire's.

"Compensation per private-sector employee in 2018, when adjusted for cost of living, was \$2598 greater in Right to Work states as a group than it was in New Hampshire.

"According to preliminary data from 2019, new privately owned single-unit housing authorizations per capita are twice as high in Right to Work states as they are in New Hampshire.

"Most importantly, forced unionism is just plain wrong. When candidates drag their feet, voters typically react negatively. But it's always up to the individual candidate to decide whether and how to answer a Right to Work survey." 📌

Growth in Total Number of People Employed, 2009-2019



Source:

U.S. Commerce Department; Bureau of Economic Analysis

Note: Since Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky switched from forced-unionism to Right to Work between 2012 and 2017, they are all excluded.

Over the past 10 years, the total number of people employed has grown more than twice as much, on average, in Right to Work states as in forced-dues New Hampshire, and 76% more than in forced-dues states combined.

Big Labor Owns Biden Presidential Campaign Platform ‘Unity Task Force’ Dominated by Beltway Union Officials

Presumptive 2020 Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden is making no bones about the fact that he intends to bring about a vast expansion of union officials’ coercive special privileges if he becomes the 46th U.S. President this coming January.

As if to hammer home the point that he is a radical advocate of forced unionism, Mr. Biden invited Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, the avowed socialist who unsuccessfully challenged him for the Democrat nomination early this year, to help him select the members of his six “Unity Task Forces.”

These small teams of political insiders will shape the Biden agenda in key areas.

And Inside-the-D.C. Beltway union bosses Lee Saunders, Sara Nelson, Mary Kay Henry, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, and Randi Weingarten are members of the economic, health care, and education task forces.

As *Vox* reporter Ella Nielsen explained in her account of the Unity Task Force selections, the political operatives serving on these panels may well, in addition to having direct input on the 2020 Democrat National Committee (DNC) platform, “have a say on who might serve” in the Biden White House should he be elected President.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

“Given the radical labor policies Joe Biden has already endorsed, including wiping out all 27 state Right to Work laws so that union bosses can force millions more American workers to pay union dues, or else be fired, it isn’t surprising he is literally having union bosses write the first draft of the DNC platform.”

State and Local Public Employees Who Wish to Stay Union-Free in Biden Sights

Last year, Mr. Biden explicitly vowed to push for adoption of the cynically mislabeled “Protecting the Right to Organize” Act, or PRO Act (H.R.2474/S.1306).

This is a package of new special privileges for union bosses that includes a provision making private-sector forced union fees permissible in all 50 states, including states where they are currently prohibited by state law.

The PRO Act, which passed the Nancy Pelosi-ruled House of Representatives



Credit: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

Candidate Joe Biden is now doing everything he can think of, it seems, to show he is just as determined to foist forced unionism on American employees and small businesses as his former rival, self-avowed socialist Bernie Sanders.

on February 6, includes a wide array of other special-interest provisions designed to further empower union bosses to force their “representation” on as many private-sector workers as possible.

But the PRO Act actually doesn’t go far enough for Mr. Biden.

Even though state and local employees have traditionally been regarded as subject to the jurisdiction of the states, not the federal government, Mr. Biden has said he would be eager to sign federal legislation foisting union monopoly bargaining on public workers in all 50 states.

Government Union Bosses ‘Calling the Shots’

Mr. Mourad pointed out that four of the five union bosses handpicked for the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force head huge government unions:

“Lee Saunders is chief of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union. Mary Kay Henry runs the Service Employees International Union. And Lily Eskelsen Garcia and Randi Weingarten respectively control the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers unions.

“To an even greater extent than private-sector union bosses, government union bosses are calling the shots for the Biden 2020 campaign. Taxpayers, as well as independent-minded civil servants,

beware!”

Despite Mr. Biden’s decades-long track record of support for forced unionism, and his recent moves towards pro-union monopoly extremism, the National Right to Work Committee is not giving up on trying to change his mind.

Right to Work Federal Survey Program Holds Candidates Accountable

Mr. Mourad explained:

“Through our Survey 2020 program, the Committee is mobilizing freedom-loving citizens nationwide to contact their federal candidates, including Joe Biden, and encouraging them to oppose union monopoly bargaining and forced union dues.

“The Survey 2020 will leave Big Labor politicians like Joe Biden with a choice: Repudiate their records of support for union special privileges, or face the potential political consequences.

“Grassroots communications with elected officials who have expressed their support for Right to Work in the past, such as President Donald Trump, are another critical component of the survey program.

“Candidates who pledged to support Right to Work in their previous campaigns must be encouraged to reaffirm their commitment, and back it up with effective actions.” 🔔

In Memory of Anne M. Casper, Colleague, Friend *Committee Staffer Rose From Telephone Rep to Corporate Secretary*

The Right to Work movement lost one of its most valuable leaders on May 5 when Anne Casper, the National Right to Work Committee's director of strategic programs, passed away after a lengthy illness.

Anne was just 18 years old when she started working part-time at the Committee's telecommunications center. Even as a young woman, her sharp mind and natural leadership skills showed brightly.

She soon assumed new responsibilities as a telecommunication supervisor, and later ran the organization's data-processing department. Next, she was promoted to become assistant director of the telecommunications division.

Anne ultimately took over the post of corporate secretary to the Committee's board of directors and its director of strategic programs, heading a team of over 20 employees for more than 25 years.

Movement Would 'Not Be Where It Is Today Without Anne's Service'

"Anne literally grew up in the Right to Work movement," noted Committee President Mark Mix. "She was a perfectionist who ensured that everyone



Mark Mix: Anne "ensured that everyone on her team" adhered to her own high standards.

on her team adhered to her own high standards and dedication to the members who make the Committee's fight against forced unionism possible."

In 2015, the Committee board of directors honored Anne, awarding her with National Right to Work's "Great Communicator Award" at the Committee's annual meeting in Omaha, Neb.

This award honors an individual for having excelled in communicating the

goals and mission of the Right to Work movement.

Receiving it was difficult for Anne, who always avoided, if she possibly could, being the center of attention, and was most content advancing and applauding the success of others.

Mr. Mix noted: "Of all the great Americans who have received this award, including influential members of Congress and generous donors, Anne was certainly one of the most deserving."

Even during the past five years, while courageously fighting cancer, Anne came to work every day ready to lead her team. "She never once slowed down or allowed her difficulties to affect her dedication to her work and the cause," said Mr. Mix.

"Whether it was her organizational skill as an officer serving the Committee and National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation boards, or her attention to detail developing the Committee's donor-outreach program, the Right to Work movement would not be where it is without Anne's service and leadership.

"Most importantly, Anne was an exceptional person who demonstrated unwavering loyalty to her colleagues and to the cause of liberty to which she dedicated 30 years of her life. Everyone who knew Anne will miss her dearly." 📌

Backlash May Only Be Beginning

Continued from page 8

warnings from the Committee, which has roughly 43,000 members in California, about the disastrous impact it would have.

Among the most vociferous supporters of this power grab was Assembly member Christy Smith, who announced her U.S. House candidacy shortly before A.B.5 took effect in January.

It reclassified independent contractors, including truck owner-operators, therapists, artists, musicians and writers, as well as drivers for Uber and Lyft, as "employees" under California law.

As a result, these workers are now vulnerable to union monopoly bargaining, and to being forced to pay union dues, or be fired.

Many workers are furious about this deadly threat to their independence, as one southern California trucker recently explained:

"Unions have been after trucking forever. I have been an owner-operator since I was 24 years old.

"So after 28 years in business, A.B.5 is saying I can't do this any more?"

Union Bosses Show 'All They Care About' Is Growing Forced-Dues Ranks

In California, because of A.B.5, the pain associated with steep coronavirus-related employment losses has been greatly intensified.

Countless freelancers complying with "stay at home" orders have been unable to use their time and skills to generate income so they and their families can make it through the crisis.

And long-term job losses are projected to be enormous.

"Unfortunately," observed Mr. Mix, "the negative consequences of A.B.5 don't seem to matter much to California union bosses.

"They are showing that all they care about is growing their forced-dues ranks

and filling union coffers, and they see independent contractors as prime targets for fulfilling those objectives."

But ordinary citizens are fighting back, and Mr. Garcia, who defeated Ms. Smith by a substantial 10-point margin to become the first Republican to flip over a Democrat-controlled House seat in California since 1998, could be the first of many pro-Right to Work candidates to benefit from the backlash against A.B.5.

As California *Globe* editor Katy Grimes has noted, exit polls from the District 25 race show "a lot of voters" who normally vote for Democrats cast their ballots for Mr. Garcia "as a protest" over A.B.5.

"The smart thing for politicians who voted for this increasingly unpopular scheme to do now would be to roll it back substantially, or completely repeal it," said Mr. Mix.

"But so far it seems Big Labor California politicians aren't getting the message, as they continue to support A.B.5. The potential consequences of their stubbornness are monumental." 📌

Big Labor Loses in California Special Election

Support for A.B.5 Power Grab Helps Torpedo U.S. House Candidacy

In recent years, even as the Right to Work movement racked up major wins in a number of state legislatures and in the federal judiciary, California politics was increasingly dominated by union special interests.

Since 2012, the last year of Barack Obama's first term in the White House, the total number of states adopting and implementing Right to Work laws that protect employees from being fired for refusal to bankroll an unwanted union has risen from 22 to 27.

And in 2018, a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation staff attorney successfully argued in *Janus v. AFSCME*, a case brought to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of an independent-minded Illinois civil servant, that forced dues extracted as a condition of public employment are unconstitutional.

But today both chambers of the California Legislature, as well as the governorship, are firmly under Big Labor's

control, as they have been since 2011.

At the same time, popular opposition to monopolistic unionism in the Golden State is clearly intensifying.

Over the next few years, freedom-loving California citizens will have the opportunity, with the National Right to Work Committee's assistance, to mobilize this opposition and begin to change their state's political climate.

Committee Put Spotlight on How Big Labor Was Lavishly Bankrolling Christy Smith

A May 12 federal special election for a suburban area located just north of Los Angeles, in which avowedly pro-Right to Work businessman Mike Garcia became the first Republican anywhere to recapture a U.S. House District lost by Donald Trump in 2016, illustrates how it can be done.

California's 25th Congressional

District opened up last November with the resignation of scandal-plagued, union-label Democrat Rep. Katie Hill.

Thanks in large part to the massive power of the Big Labor political machine in coastal California, Democrats were originally heavily favored to retain the seat, which Ms. Hill took over with a nine-point victory in 2018 and Hillary Clinton carried by seven points in 2016.

However, after Mr. Garcia first returned his National Right to Work Committee Candidate Survey in late January, pledging 100% opposition to forced unionism if elected, then prevailed in the GOP primary, Committee leaders sensed that the race could be close.

This spring, a series of letters signed by Committee President Mark Mix repeatedly alerted thousands of identified Right to Work supporters in the 25th District to the fact that the Democrat nominee in the special election, Christy Smith, was running up a huge political debt to the union hierarchy:

"You see, the truth is, from AFSCME to the Teamsters to SEIU and the NEA, union kingpins are lining up to support Christy Smith."

Mr. Mix went on to urge freedom-loving citizens to contact Ms. Smith and demand that she break with her Big Labor bankrollers and promise to support Right to Work in the future, and also contact Mr. Garcia to commend him for standing up to the union bosses.

'So After 28 Years in Business, A.B.5 Is Saying I Can't Do This Any More?'

The Right to Work message resonated loudly.

In California, many citizens who have long supported the overwhelmingly popular Right to Work principle, but did not always make it their key issue come election time, are now refusing to vote for pro-forced unionism politicians.

The immediate reason for the widespread change of heart is California's A.B.5, a recent massive expansion of forced unionism that seeks to rob 1.5 million independent contractors in the Golden State of their workplace freedoms.

Last year, Sacramento lawmakers rubber-stamped A.B.5, and Democrat Gov. Gavin Newsom signed it, ignoring

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CHRISTY SMITH IS FOR AB5

AB5 is California lawmakers' way of saying in 2020:

"Dear 400+ California Independent Freelance Professions and the 5 Million Members of the Workforce and The People You Serve,

- We will own you and you will do our bidding.**
- We will make it illegal to perform your chosen work.**
- We will drive you out of California because you can't be hired here.**
- We will make you employees whether you want to be or not.**
- We will make you turn on your clients.**
- We will put your clients out of business or force them to leave CA.**
- We will fine your clients retroactively going back several years.**
- We will accuse you and your clients of tax evasion.**
- We will destroy the arts and creative industries in California.**

THESE ARE THE REASONS YOU SHOULD VOTE AGAINST CHRISTY SMITH.

California Assembly member Christy Smith's vote for Big Labor's radically anti-Right to Work A.B.5 scheme delighted union bosses. But it clearly turned many constituents against her, as this pre-election Facebook ad illustrates.

Credit: Facebook ad, as reproduced in California Globe (edited by NRTWC)