



# NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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## Joe Biden's Goal: 'No Right to Work Allowed' *Even Democrat Party Guru Admits Nominee's Stance Is 'Unpopular'*

This fall, for the first time in decades, the Democrat presidential ticket is running unabashedly on a platform of barring Right to Work protections for employees in all 50 states.

Of course, that includes the 27 states where forced union dues and fees as a condition of employment are currently prohibited.

As top Democrat Party strategist David Shor recently admitted to an interviewer, if former Vice President Joe Biden "just wanted to follow the polls," he wouldn't be taking this hard-line pro-forced unionism stance.

In the words of *New York* senior writer Eric Levitz, whose lengthy interview with him was published by that magazine in July, Mr. Shor "is among the most influential data gurus in Democratic politics."

In 2012, Mr. Shor was entrusted by the Obama team with creating the forecasting model the "White House used to determine where the race really stood."

"In my career," he told Mr. Levitz, "I have seen circumstances where polling has said to do one thing, and then we didn't do it for ideological reasons."

### Obama Aim in Placating Big Labor Was Never 'To Win Votes'

As a key example, he cited the Obama Administration's "radicalism" in making so-called "recess" appointments of rabidly anti-Right to Work union lawyers and bureaucrats to seats on the powerful National Labor Relations Board.

Barack Obama repeatedly made such "recess" appointments when the U.S. Senate, which is constitutionally charged with vetting such presidential appointments, was not in recess.

Mr. Obama and his associates didn't do



Credit: YouTube, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

**Presidential candidate Joe Biden, addressing Teamster bosses and militants in Las Vegas: "We should change the federal law [so] that there is no Right to Work allowed anywhere in the country."**

this "to win votes," Mr. Shor admitted. He elaborated:

"A lot of [Organized] [L]abor's agenda--repealing right-to-work laws, establishing sectoral [monopoly] bargaining -- is unpopular.

"But Democrats do pro-[Big] [L]abor policies because the people who work on Democratic campaigns, and who run for office as Democrats, are generally very liberal [that is, pro-union coercion] people."

David Shor is obviously on-target when

it comes to the 2020 Democrat presidential campaign's labor-policy strategy.

### Firing up a Cadre of Union Militants to Campaign Harder Is the Objective

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"Joe Biden and his running mate, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris [D-Calif.], are vowing to destroy all Right to Work laws

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# Biden-Harris vs. Right to Work

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as a means of firing up a cadre of forced-unionism militants in key swing states to go all-out to get them elected.”

Mr. Mix continued:

“Money is clearly a key reason why the Biden-Harris campaign has agreed to come out in complete opposition to Right to Work even though poll after poll shows that roughly 80% of Americans who regularly vote in federal elections oppose forced unionism.”

## Big Labor Can Be Expected To Pour More Than \$2 Billion Into 2019-2020 Politicking

Former Vice President Biden and Sen. Harris have affirmed their commitment to destroying Right to Work again and again in position papers and on the campaign trail.

For example, in December 2019, Mr. Biden told a crowd of Teamster bosses and staff in Las Vegas:

“We should change the federal law [so] that there is no Right to Work allowed anywhere in the country.”

Thanks to the monopoly privileges it wields over private-sector workers under federal law and over state and local government workers under the laws of the majority of states, Big Labor can be expected to pour over \$2 billion into electioneering and lobbying in 2019-20.

“By toeing the union-boss line on

Right to Work,” explained Mr. Mix, “Joe Biden and Kamala Harris hope to sway Big Labor political operatives to throw a large share of their huge campaign war chest into efforts to help them carry 2020’s battleground states.

“But this strategy has risks.

“Ordinary Americans, as David Shor recently acknowledged, think forcing an employee to pay dues or fees to a labor union just to get or keep a job is just plain wrong.

“And that’s not their only problem with compulsory unionism.”

“A growing number of Americans,” explained Mr. Mix, “recognize that the retention of current Right to Work protections and extending those protections to millions of additional employees are critical for the success of the U.S. economy.”

## From 2009 to 2019, Right To Work States’ Employment Growth Edge Was Nearly 2:1

Data from the U.S. Labor Department’s household survey, he noted, shows that the 22 states that already had Right to Work laws on the books in 2009 enjoyed overall employment growth of 16.9% over the next decade.

That’s almost double the overall employment growth of 9.6% in the 23 states that have chosen, up to now, not to

adopt Right to Work laws.

“Nine of the 10 highest-ranking states for 2009-19 growth in the total number of people employed are Right to Work states, noted Mr. Mix.

“If the total state Right to Work elimination planned by Joe Biden is adopted, the results will be a devastating loss of personal freedom for workers and a shipwreck for the U.S. economy.”

## This Fall, the Committee Will Let Citizens Know Where The Candidates Stand

Even as they courted Organized Labor’s enthusiastic support in their campaigns, neither former President Obama nor 2016 Democrat presidential nominee Hillary Clinton went so far as to campaign openly in favor of prohibiting state Right to Work laws.

This year, Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris are obviously counting on rank-and-file voters not to notice just how extreme the unpopular federal labor policy they are proposing is.

At the same time, National Right to Work members, staff and leaders are doing everything feasible to ensure, through the Committee’s federal Survey 2020 program, that freedom-loving citizens across the U.S. know exactly where the candidates stand on compulsory unionism.

Mr. Mix explained:

“With TV and radio advertising, through the mail and the Internet, and on the phone, Survey 2020 is informing millions of concerned Americans about the pro-forced unionism positions candidates like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have already taken.

“The Committee is at the same time mobilizing Right to Work members and other Right to Work supporters to contact their federal candidates, including Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and encouraging them to oppose union monopoly bargaining and forced unionism in the future.

“Survey 2020 will leave Big Labor politicians 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 employees’ 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.” 

### States With the Greatest Percentage Gains In Total Employment From 2009-19

STATE	ABSOLUTE GAIN	PERCENTAGE GAIN
<b>Idaho *</b>	165.5 thousand	24.0 percent
<b>Nevada *</b>	285.7 thousand	23.9 percent
<b>Utah *</b>	299.8 thousand	23.7 percent
<b>Texas *</b>	2.543 million	23.1 percent
<b>Florida *</b>	1.868 million	22.9 percent
Colorado	537.7 thousand	21.3 percent
<b>South Carolina *</b>	387.7 thousand	20.8 percent
<b>Arizona *</b>	566.9 thousand	20.1 percent
<b>North Carolina *</b>	796.8 thousand	19.5 percent
<b>Tennessee *</b>	498.4 thousand	18.2 percent

**Right to Work States are asterisked and emboldened**

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

Source: U.S. Labor Department, Household Survey

For many years, America’s principal job engines have overwhelmingly been states with Right to Work protections for the individual employee. Eliminating such protections nationwide would gravely damage the U.S. economy.

# Biden-Harris Ticket Contemptuous Toward Workers

## *Pay Big Labor to Undercut Your ‘Economic Interests,’ or Be Fired!*

Kamala Harris, the junior U.S. senator from California whom Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden publicly announced would be his running mate on August 11, knows full well that many employees who are subject to union monopoly bargaining would be better off if they weren't.

In fact, in 2015, Ms. Harris and several other statewide California officeholders effectively admitted that laws authorizing union bosses to act as sole spokesperson for members and nonmembers alike in contract negotiations with the employer can and often do hurt talented employees.

At the time, Ms. Harris was the Golden State's attorney general.

Ms. Harris, state Solicitor General Ed DuMont, and several of their lieutenants, along with officers of the National Education Association (NEA) union and its Golden State subsidiary, the California Teachers Association (CTA), were the respondents in *Friedrichs v. CTA*.

And the case was before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs were 10 independent-minded public educators. They were challenging the constitutionality of California's laws foisting forced union dues and fees as a job condition on government-sector workers.

### **Big Labor Has ‘Substantial Latitude’ to Harm ‘Economic Interests’ of Many Workers**

In a September 2015 brief to the High Court, the plaintiffs drew upon passages in the *NEA Handbook* to make the case that NEA and CTA union bosses “advocate numerous policies that affirmatively harm [many] teachers . . .”:

“NEA considers any ‘system of compensation based on an evaluation of an education employees’s performance’ to be ‘inappropriate’ and ‘opposes providing additional compensation to attract and/or retain education employees in hard-to-recruit positions.’”

Teachers who “care more about rewarding merit than protecting mediocre teachers should “oppose these policies,” concluded the teacher plaintiffs, who were represented by a legal team of staff attorneys for the Cleveland-based firm Jones Day.

The plaintiffs added that “teachers who specialize in difficult subjects (like chemistry or physics), but are trapped in



**As Committee leader Mark Mix has explained, former Vice President Joe Biden and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, are both eager to erase every state Right to Work law in the land.**

union-obtained pay systems that stop them from out-earning gym teachers,” should also oppose those policies.

In the reply briefs they filed in November 2015, the pro-forced unionism respondents did not contest the fact that many teachers get paid less due to union monopoly bargaining

And Ms. Harris and Mr. DuMont actually confirmed that, under statutes and case law authorizing monopolistic unionism, Organized Labor officials “do have substantial latitude to advance bargaining positions that . . . run counter to the economic interests of some employees.”

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

“Even as they acknowledged that Big Labor undercuts the economic interests of many teachers and other employees, Kamala Harris and her cohorts continued to argue it is sound public policy to authorize the termination of such employees if they refuse to bankroll a union they don't want!”

### **Ms. Harris: ‘Banning Right to Work . . . Needs to Happen’**

During her recent run for the 2020 Democrat presidential nomination, Ms. Harris aggressively reaffirmed her support for forced union dues and fees and declared her intention to wipe out Right to Work

protections for employees nationwide.

“Banning Right to Work laws . . . needs to happen,” said Ms. Harris to an audience of union officials and their militant followers in Las Vegas in April 2019.

Moreover, with regard to the key issue of compulsory unionism, Ms. Harris and former Vice President Biden, her erstwhile rival for the Democrat presidential nomination and current running mate, are fully in accord.

Mr. Biden, as well as Ms. Harris, has publicly gone on the record, again and again, in support of the cynically mislabeled “Protecting the Right to Organize” Act, or PRO Act (H.R.2474/S.1306).

Mr. Mix explained: “The PRO Act is a smorgasbord of new special privileges for union bosses.

“The single most egregious provision makes private-sector forced union dues as a job condition permissible in all 50 states, including the 27 states where they are currently prohibited by state Right to Work laws.

“Roughly half of America's private-sector workforce is now employed in a Right to Work state.

“If the PRO Act becomes law, all these employees will be potentially vulnerable to forced unionism.

“The Biden-Harris ticket's ugly message to employees across America is: ‘Pay Big Labor to undercut your “economic interests,” or be fired from your job!’”

# Joe Biden Opposes Contractors' Independence

## *Nationwide Replay of California Disaster Could Be the Result*

This January, California's A.B.5, a massive expansion of forced unionism that seeks to rob 1.5 million independent contractors in the Golden State of their workplace freedoms, went into effect.

In 2019, Sacramento lawmakers rubber-stamped A.B.5, and Democrat Gov. Gavin Newsom signed it, ignoring warnings from the National Right to Work Committee about the harmful impact it would have.

Under A.B.5, independent contractors, including truck owner-operators, therapists, artists, musicians and writers, as well as drivers for Uber and Lyft, have been reclassified as "employees."

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

The results so far have been disastrous.

Vast numbers of formerly independent workers are angrily protesting the loss of their flexibility and freedom. Moreover, the sharp economic contraction stemming from COVID-19 and political efforts to contain it has hit California harder than practically any other state.

Of course, none of this matters much to union bosses, who see the millions of independent contractors nationwide as prime targets to grow their forced-dues ranks and fill union coffers.

### **So-Called 'Benefits' Make 'Zero Sense For Freelancers Like Me'**

Since A.B.5 was originally adopted just over a year ago, union lobbyists have aggressively pushed for passage of similar legislation in Big Labor-dominated



### **Politicians led by Gavin Newsom sickened California's economy. Will Biden-Harris infect the whole U.S.?**

Illinois, New Jersey, and New York.

National Right to Work has opposed such legislation. And no such bill has yet become law, outside of California, thanks to unexpectedly intense public opposition.

In an illuminating article published in the August-September issue of *Reason* magazine, editor and freelance writer Kim Kavin told about why she has become a leader in the movement to prevent anti-independent contractor legislation from passing in New Jersey, where she lives.

The so-called A.B.5 "benefits" touted by Big Labor and its allies, wrote Ms. Kavin, make "zero sense to freelancers like me." She explained:

"Which of the dozen or more magazines and newspapers I write for should have to pay me sick leave? How would that time be accrued when I do not write for anyone by the hour, by the day, or on a salary? Am I unemployed if my regular clients need me to write less, but

my income stays the same because I write more for other clients?"

Far from bringing freelancers like her "benefits," continued Ms. Kavin, an A.B.5-style rewrite of New Jersey labor law would do "exactly what it has in California and at publishing houses such as Hearst: make our clients afraid to work with . . . contractors at all."

The decimation of contract work undoubtedly contributed to the 13.1% decline in seasonally-adjusted employment in California from January to July, a plummet over 60% greater than the national average.

California has suffered extraordinary economic devastation even though its COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths have both been lower than the national average.

### **Big Labor Politicians in Washington, D.C., Seem Heedless of A.B.5 Debacle**

Unfortunately, union-label politicians inside the D.C. Beltway, unlike their counterparts in Springfield, Trenton and Albany, have shown no reluctance whatsoever to foist an A.B.5-like scheme on their constituents, despite the ongoing debacle in California.

This February, pro-forced unionism Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) House of Representatives green-lighted omnibus labor legislation (H.R.2474) including provisions that would reclassify independent contractors nationwide as "employees," and thus pave the way for them to be corralled into unions.

Moreover, Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden, who was leading President Donald Trump in most polls as this Newsletter edition went to press, has publicly pledged to support federalizing A.B.5 if he is elected in November.

And Mr. Biden's running mate, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), is currently a cosponsor of H.R.2474's Senate companion, S.1306.

National Right to Work Vice President Greg Mourad expressed his dismay at the Biden-Harris ticket's opposition to independence for contractors:

"These people are private citizens, conducting private business. It is wrong to pretend they are somebody's employees just so some union boss can collect tribute out of these private citizens' incomes." 

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# Union Dons Lie to Workers to Keep Them in Line

## *Forced Union Dues Promote a ‘Culture of Big Labor Abuse’ in Maine*

On June 22, top officials of Local S6 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM/AFL-CIO) union ordered roughly 4,300 Maine shipbuilders out on a strike that, by Big Labor’s own admission, had nothing to do with securing higher pay or better benefits for employees.

As soon became clear, IAM bigwigs didn’t believe they could win their battle against Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works (BIW) simply by convincing employees to walk away from their jobs and not return to them until the strike was over, without fear of reprisals if they didn’t toe the Big Labor line.

### **Threatening IAM Message To BIW Workers Referenced Drowning, Hanging by Rope**

On July 9, union officials disseminated a written message to front-line employees threatening them with an array of reprisals if they chose to go back to work so they could support their families with their earnings.

The message approvingly cited bloody-minded early 20th Century socialist writer Jack London’s opinion that workers who disobey strike orders should be drowned or hanged by rope.

It vowed that union kingpins would, whenever they could get away with it, impose onerous fines on employees who returned to work.

The message even claimed that employees who resigned from the union so they could return to work without being hit by union-boss fines equal to “the total amount of wages” they earned during the strike would still be forced to pay “full union dues” once the strike was over.

### **Why Are So Many Union Bosses Ready to Break the Law in Broad Daylight?**

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb commented:

“As decades of successful litigation on behalf of employees by the Committee’s sister organization, the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, illustrate, power-crazed and money-grubbing union bosses often try to force workers to continue paying full union dues after they resign.

“But multiple U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including most notably the Foundation’s 1988 victory in *Beck v.*



Credit: AP Photo - Scott Sommer

**As national IAM President Robert Martinez boasted about rank-and-file support for the BIW strike, his lieutenants were threatening workers with an array of reprisals if they chose to go back to work.**

*CWA*, have clearly affirmed that forcing employees who no longer belong to a union to pay full dues is illegal.”

Mr. Kalb continued: “It is reasonable to ask why top officers of IAM Local S6 and many other union kingpins around the country who make illegal threats to deter workers from striking are ready to break the law in broad daylight.

“Right to Work supporters know one answer: In Maine and the 22 other states where they are still permitted by law, forced union dues promote a culture of Big Labor abuse.

“In the Pine Tree State, a union boss CAN legally get a worker fired for refusing to fork over money to a union the worker doesn’t support.

“Is it really so shocking that, in such an environment, union bosses would try to get away with threatening to extract from workers, on pain of firing, even more money than the U.S. Supreme Court has found to be permissible?”

Thousands and thousands of freedom-loving citizens in Maine are determined to put an end to Big Labor’s culture of abuse in their state.

And the grassroots group New England

Citizens for Right to Work, which aims to pass laws prohibiting forced union dues and fees in Maine and other states in the region, is now running its 2020 candidate survey for the November 3 elections.

### **Survey Program Focuses On Right to Work as Election Day Approaches**

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

Now Mainers are urged to contact this fall’s candidates with letters, postcards, and phone calls in support of Right to Work. The goal is to build up support for worker freedom continuously until November 3.

Mr. 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.”

# 'We're in a Very, Almost Desperate Situation'

## *Forced-Unionism Illinois Faces Unfunded-Pension-Liability Crisis*

The now mercifully receding COVID-19 pandemic and the unparalleled economic shock resulting from efforts to contain it have only exacerbated what journalist Kristin Tate aptly describes as a “debilitating and growing disease in the management of many state capitals.”

And National Right to Work Committee members and supporters recognize that the primary malady preventing states from managing themselves prudently is wide-ranging monopoly privileges accorded to government officials by state law.

Perhaps no other state is currently in a deeper fiscal hole than forced-unionism Illinois, where there are more than \$12 billion in unfunded liabilities of local public-safety pension funds alone.

In April, union-label state Senate President Don Harmon (Chicago), acting on behalf of the entire Democrat caucus in his chamber, sought to get Illinois out of its fix by prodding Congress to approve a multi-billion-dollar federal taxpayer bailout of the state's underwater government pension funds.

Mr. Harmon brazenly attempted to use COVID-19 as an excuse for his solicitation of \$41.6 billion in federal money for Illinois, including \$10 billion explicitly earmarked for the state's retirement systems and \$9.6 billion for municipalities, which could “help fund”

local government pensions.

Roughly a month after the Harmon gambit, H.R.6800 -- a \$3 trillion, federal taxpayer-funded bailout package that would reward fiscally irresponsible state politicians in Illinois and a number of other Big Labor-dominated states, was rubber-stamped by Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) U.S. House.

### **'It's Almost Like We've Waited Too Long to Properly Fix the Problem'**

However, this scheme met stiff resistance in the U.S. Senate and the White House, and is currently stalled.

Consequently, Illinoisans are feeling increasing pressure to decide what to do about their enormous fiscal imbalances assuming a new no-strings-attached federal bailout isn't on the way.

A number of Prairie State elected officials are heeding hard-pressed taxpaying constituents and calling for a reworking of the pension deals government union bosses have, by wielding their monopoly-bargaining privileges, cut with Big Labor politicians in the past.

One example is Springfield Alderman Joe McMenamin (I). “We're in a very, almost desperate situation with our

long-term financing,” he recently acknowledged to a radio station based in his city. He later added: “It's grown worse and worse. It's almost like we've waited too long to properly fix the problem.”

Under the circumstances, Mr. McMenamin believes Illinois has no choice but to change the formula for how pension benefits government employees have not earned yet accrue in the future, despite the enormous political obstacles Big Labor and its allies have erected for would-be reformers.

Meanwhile, union chiefs like the top bosses of the Illinois subsidiary of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) are insisting that the only possible solution to pension shortfalls for which they and their predecessors are largely responsible is ever-heavier taxation.

### **Union Bosses Lobby to Open Tax-Hike Floodgates**

This fall, government union dons are the core supporters of an Illinois state constitutional amendment that would gut longstanding restraints on the taxation power of Illinois politicians and thus help them jack up taxes, again and again, on people at all income levels.

Right to Work Vice President Mary King suggested IAFF President Harold Schaitberger is emblematic of the elite group of union bosses who will benefit if Illinois's cynically mislabeled “fair tax” amendment passes.

“For years,” said Ms. King, “Harold Schaitberger and other IAFF officials have failed to arrange for adequate funding of rank-and-file pensions in state after state. Illinois is perhaps the most egregious example, but it is only one of many.”

“Meanwhile, as far back as 2014, Mr. Schaitberger has faced allegations of financial misconduct. For example, according to IAFF Treasurer Edward Kelly, Mr. Schaitberger has illegally taken over \$1 million from the union's own pension system since 2000.

“To fix Illinois, National Right to Work supporters in the state are calling for a rollback of the special privileges for government union bosses that got the state in its current mess.

“And if ordinary citizens thwart the so-called ‘fair tax’ scheme this November, the stage could finally be set for real reform in Illinois.”



For years, Harold Schaitberger and his lieutenants have colluded with their puppet politicians to underfund rank-and-file pensions. Meanwhile, he has reportedly illegally taken over \$1 million from his union's pension system.

# Resolution on November 3?

Continued from page 8

“Another trait that ‘virtually all the [worst] overspenders have in common,’ added Mr. Malanga, is ‘a high degree of [monopolistic] public-sector unionization.’

“Among the 10 states whose spending most exceeded the revenues they took in, nine ‘have union rates well above the national average for the public sector,’ and six rank in the top 10 for ‘the percentage of unionized workers within government.’”

## Union Bosses ‘Have Over-Promised and Under-Delivered to Workers’

Just before the House roll-call on H.R.6800, during which Ms. Pelosi gave free passes to vote “no” to a handful of especially politically vulnerable Democrat members, while herding the rest into line, the Committee contacted every U.S. representative to communicate strong Right to Work opposition.

“For decades,” wrote Committee Director of Federal Affairs Ben Arcuri, “state governments and government union bosses have colluded to expand the size, scope, and cost of government,” cutting deals that “were never sustainable in the long term.”

Most egregiously of all, “state politicians beholden to government union bosses have promised” pension benefits to public employees “far beyond states’ ability to pay.”

They have “over-promised and under-delivered to workers, placing short-term gain over long-term sustainability.” The burden of this irresponsibility must not be transferred over to already hard-pressed federal taxpayers, Mr. Arcuri concluded.

After Ms. Pelosi got her way and H.R.6800 sailed through the House, Right to Work staff repeatedly communicated with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s (R-Ky.) office about the need to prevent H.R.6800 or any other government-union-pension bailout from being passed by his chamber.

Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Schumer, and their cohorts clearly calculated that, as bloated as H.R.6800 is, the suffering connected to the horrific 15.6% decline in employment the U.S. experienced in March and April would ultimately leave Mr. McConnell and President Trump with no choice.

They would have to acquiesce to H.R.6800, or something very much like it, or face a sharp backlash from states and localities across the country.

What Big Labor politicians apparently overlooked is the fact that the overwhelming majority of the 27 Right to Work states were in a far better position to weather the COVID-19 storm than were the bastions of compulsory unionism.

## Right to Work States Are Balancing Their Budgets, Despite the Pandemic

As economist Stephen Moore, a frequent television commentator and an advisor to Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign, noted recently in an interview with the *Epoch Times*, Utah, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa -- all Right to Work states -- have actually balanced their budgets for the current fiscal year.

“Contrary to Nancy Pelosi’s expectations,” said Mr. Leen, “the governors and lawmakers of Right to Work states have not joined their counterparts in Illinois, New Jersey and Connecticut in



Credit: Associated Press

## In communications with Majority Leader McConnell’s office, Right to Work has strongly opposed H.R.6800.

pressing for a federal bailout.

“That’s undoubtedly a key reason why neither Mitch McConnell nor Donald Trump has seen fit, up to now, to seek a ‘compromise’ with Nancy Pelosi over her proposed \$1.1 trillion bailout for government union bosses.”

Mr. Leen emphasized that federal taxpayers who live in relatively fiscally responsible states aren’t out of the woods yet:

“Depending on the dynamics of the closing weeks of the 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns, there is a danger that a phony ‘compromise’ bailout will emerge. It would be less outrageous than H.R.6800, but still hand billions and billions of unrestricted dollars to Big Labor state and local politicians.

“And even if H.R.6800 fails this year, 2021 could be a different story.

“If Big Labor politicians control the White House and both chambers of Congress next year, it may unfortunately be impossible to stop an enormous forced-dues-state bailout from happening.”

## Consider Naming the National Right to Work Committee On a Life Insurance Policy!

Some donors choose to make the National Right to Work Committee the beneficiary of paid-up life insurance policies that have outlived their original purpose.

Your legacy of support will help keep the fight against compulsory unionism going for future generations.

Each and every one of these gifts is a testament to our members’ love of individual liberty. Together, their collective strength serves as a bedrock for winning an American future where no worker is forced to pay union dues.

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 him at [mml@nrtwc.org](mailto:mml@nrtwc.org).

# Trillion-Dollar Union-Boss Bailout Stalled

## *Resistance to Pelosi Scheme Coalesces in Right to Work States*

For decades, fiscally irresponsible Big Labor politicians in government union boss-stronghold states like Illinois, New Jersey and Connecticut have been piling up ever-increasing unfunded liabilities for taxpaying employees and employers in their jurisdictions.

Several months ago, in desperation, politicians in these states seized upon COVID-19 and the huge economic shock resulting from efforts to contain it as an opportunity to make citizens of less profligate states pick up the tab for Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, *et al.*

Their instrument of choice is the so-called “HEROES” Act (H.R.6800), a \$3 trillion, federal taxpayer-funded bailout package.

It was rubber-stamped by the U.S. House in May. And just a few weeks ago, many proponents of H.R.6800 clearly believed the U.S. Senate would face irresistible pressure to ram through either H.R.6800 itself or something similar before Labor Day.

### **Hundreds of Billions of Dollars Already Allotted For States, Localities**

By early this spring, state and local government finances across the country were under intense strain partly due to COVID-19 itself, and perhaps to an even greater extent because of the mandatory shutdowns of “nonessential” businesses instituted by politicians in all but a handful of the 50 states.

To help suddenly strapped states, cities, counties and towns make it through the government-imposed shutdowns, bipartisan majorities in the U.S. Congress quickly made available upwards of \$200 billion in direct relief, on top of as much as \$500 billion in subsidized loans, to states and localities.

But Big Labor D.C. politicians led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) weren’t satisfied with federal assistance that was specifically crafted to address fiscal problems stemming from the pandemic and efforts to “flatten the curve” of infections.

Even as bipartisan and extraordinarily costly relief measures were sailing through Congress, Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Schumer, and their cohorts were already hatching a plot.

In the words of Stanford University



Credit: Andrew Harnick, Associated Press

**Once often seen in wild-west hold-ups, bandanas and scarves are now fashionable in D.C., as Nancy Pelosi and her cohorts try to hold up federal taxpayers for a trillion-dollar bailout for union bosses.**

finance professor Joshua Rauh, their aim is to turn “coronavirus assistance” into a “federal bailout of states and municipalities that have mismanaged their funds for decades . . .”

On May 12, Ms. Pelosi unveiled H.R.6800, a union-boss wish list that includes nearly \$1.1 trillion in funds for state and local governments.

### **Forced-Dues States Have Long Been Overspending At Big Labor’s Behest**

“The \$1.1 trillion,” said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen, “would supposedly go to help public officials close temporary budget gaps that are direct results of the coronavirus and coronavirus shutdowns.

“The reality is that H.R.6800, if adopted, will enable Big Labor-ruled states to paper over with federal tax dollars catastrophic deficits and soaring long-term debts that are primarily the result of chronic out-of-control spending and other

poor budgetary decisions by union-label politicians.

“Of course, all 50 states have been hurt fiscally this year as a consequence of plummeting sales, personal income, and/or other tax revenues.

“But the enormous budget problems now faced by the Prairie State and many others obviously are rooted in longstanding policies that authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay union dues or fees as a job condition and grant monopoly privileges to government union bosses.

“As journalist Steven Malanga reported last year in *City Journal*, the nine states that had the worst records from 2003-17 of ‘spending more than they generate in taxes, fees, and federal grants’ are New Jersey, Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, California and Delaware.

“Eight of these states are forced-unionism. And Kentucky, the only one that isn’t, did not adopt its Right to Work law until 2017.

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