



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 2

www.nrtwc.org

February 2021

Big Labor Controls White House, House, Senate *Union Czar Aims to Destroy All State Right to Work Laws This Year*

Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO, and his lieutenants have billions of dollars at their disposal and formidable political clout because of federal and state labor laws forcing workers to fork over union dues and accept union control over their pay, benefits, and work rules, or be fired.

The bosses of the AFL-CIO union conglomerate and other union bigwigs have thousands of federal, state and local politicians across the country at their beck and call.

But for all that, they have been unable over the past decade to stop the spread of state Right to Work laws.

Union-Boss Bids to Quash Right to Work at State Level Have Failed Miserably

Today 27 states have Right to Work statutes and/or constitutional amendments. These laws protect the individual employee from being fired or denied a job opportunity for mere refusal to join or bankroll an unwanted union.

Just in the past decade, five states -- Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky -- have adopted and implemented Right to Work laws.

Because of this series of defeats for Mr. Trumka and his cohorts, roughly half of the private-sector employees in America today may not be compelled to pay dues or fees to a union in order to get a job or keep a job.

Union political schemes to repeal Right to Work laws at the state level have failed time and again.

In fact, today Big Labor does not wield operational control over a single one of the 10 legislative chambers for the five states that have most recently enacted Right to



Credit Kena Belancour, AFP via Getty

To stop Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) from obliterating Right to Work protections nationwide, it is critical first to stop him from rewriting Senate rules to muzzle forced-unionism foes.

Work laws.

Unfortunately, as this Newsletter edition goes to press, top union bosses *are* calling the shots in both the U.S. House and Senate as well as at the White House.

Trumka-Backed Bill Would Wipe Out Right to Work Laws in One Fell Swoop

And Richard Trumka has already gone on the record saying that he plans to seize the opportunity to ram through federal legislation that would gut Right to

Work protections for employees in all the states that already have them and prevent additional states from affording such protections.

His vehicle of choice is the cynically mislabeled "Protecting the Right to Organize" Act, or "PRO" Act.

This omnibus bill is a lengthy wish list for union bosses.

But undoubtedly the most important provision of all for Mr. Trumka is the one that makes private-sector forced union dues as a job condition permissible in all

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Filibuster Preservation Is Key

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50 states, including erstwhile Right to Work states.

Last year, after intense arm-twisting by Big Labor, Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) House of Representatives green-lighted the PRO Act. But it faced opposition from then-President Donald Trump and could not be passed in then-Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) Senate.

In the 2020 elections, Mr. Trumka was dead set on removing those obstacles to Right to Work destruction from his path.

There Is No Mandate To Push For Union-Label Workplace Transformation

Last November, the AFL-CIO hierarchy got part of what it wanted.

Thanks largely to the efforts on his behalf by the forced dues-funded union machine, which pumps an estimated \$2 billion into electioneering and lobbying every campaign cycle, Big Labor Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden garnered slim popular-vote advantages in key states he needed to win.

The November outcome simultaneously left Ms. Pelosi, a lifelong union lackey, in charge of the House, albeit by a significantly narrowed margin. But union bosses were still two votes shy of being able to install one of their puppets as Senate leader.

Then Mr. Trumka deployed his nationwide political army of paid "volunteers" in Georgia, where two pro-Right to Work GOP senators were running to keep their seats in January 5 runoff races necessitated by state law if no candidate receives at least 50% of the total vote.

As a consequence both of Big Labor's huge, coercion-derived political

investment in the pro-union monopoly Democrat challengers and of extraordinary GOP disarray, Mr. Trumka narrowly gained the two seats he needed to take over the Senate.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"The 2020 presidential election was decided by a total of 45,000 votes in three states. The 2020 House elections left Nancy Pelosi with just 51% of chamber seats retained by her party. The 2021 Senate runoffs left that chamber deadlocked 50-50, with ties to be broken by Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Whatever else you can say about these elections, one thing is clear: There is no mandate to push for union-label transformation of the American workplace.

"But Richard Trumka doesn't care. He will call in every single political IOU he has to push through an effective federal ban on state Right to Work laws, wiping out nearly eight decades of gains for the freedom of the individual employee."

Vote Against Preserving The Filibuster Is a Vote Against Right to Work

"The outcome of this election in Georgia is about . . . passing the PRO Act . . .," declared Mr. Trumka just a week before the Senate runoffs.

To accomplish his objective of Right to Work elimination via the PRO Act with the support of just 50 out of 100 senators, Mr. Trumka will need first to rewrite Senate rules.

Newly-minted Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) will gladly go along.

Mr. Schumer has already publicly



Credit medium.com

Boss Trumka: "The outcome of [the Georgia] election is about . . . passing the PRO Act . . ."

threatened to deploy, as majority leader, the so-called "nuclear option" to prevent pro-Right to Work senators from using extended debates, commonly called "filibusters," to block special-interest legislation until an alerted public can defeat it directly.

That would grease the skids for Congress to send the PRO Act to President Biden's desk. And he has promised to sign it if given the opportunity.

Mr. Mix vowed to mobilize Committee members and supporters to wage an all-out fight to save extended debates in the Senate this year.

"By contacting their senators again and again and urging them not to go along with Sen. Schumer's 'nuclear option' scheme, Committee members and other Right to Work supporters can save state Right to Work laws," he said.

"This winter, every senator must be put on notice by freedom-loving constituents that a vote against the filibuster is a vote against Right to Work." 📢

Consider adding the National Right to Work Committee as a Beneficiary in Your Will

Your last will and testament is the ultimate statement of what matters most to you -- the people you love and the values and principles you hold dear.

That is why many freedom-loving Americans choose to include the National Right to Work Committee in their estate planning.

This isn't just an exercise for the wealthy.

No bequest is too small. Every bequest is appreciated.

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 call Matthew Leen, Vice President of Strategic Programs, at 703-321-9820, or email him at mml@nrtw.org.

Settlement Ignores Key Sources of Corruption

Workers Will Keep Paying the Price For UAW Union Bosses' Crimes

On December 14, U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider and United Auto Workers (UAW/AFL-CIO) President Rory Gamble announced a deal to end a years-long federal investigation of the 400,000-member union Mr. Gamble heads.

Prosecutors have repeatedly alleged that the UAW itself, along with a number of corrupt union bigwigs and auto-industry executives, took part in a long-running conspiracy to violate federal labor law and misappropriate training funds that were supposed to be spent helping workers.

The union officials implicated in the scandal took bribes from vendors and/or stole union treasury money to buy vacation time at private villas, expensive restaurant meals, cigars, liquor, and much more.

The union is expected ultimately to fork over more than \$16 million in fines and penalties related to crimes committed by union officials. Of course, this money is coming out of the pockets of rank-and-file workers.

Biden Appointees Unlikely To Be Serious About Rooting Out Union Corruption

Eleven former union officials, including two former UAW presidents and two former vice presidents, have already pleaded guilty to crimes connected to the federal investigation overseen by Mr. Schneider. Yet another guilty plea was entered by the widow of a deceased UAW vice president.

As reporters Robert Snell, Kalea Hall, and Breana Noble explained in their *Detroit News* account of the Schneider-Gamble announcement, although the criminal investigation of the UAW itself is now over, "federal agents will continue to investigate" individual participants in the conspiracy.

Unfortunately, Mr. Schneider did not require that the UAW brass make, as a condition of the union avoiding a full federal takeover, fundamental reforms addressing the special legal privileges that UAW officials exploited again and again to enrich themselves at workers' expense.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

"There is a good chance Matthew Schneider would have driven a substantially tougher bargain with Rory Gamble, whose own ties to one of the



Credit: Eric D. Lawrence/Detroit Free Press

Fist-bumping UAW boss Rory Gamble (left) and U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider agree to make the UAW rank-and-file pay for the criminal acts of the UAW hierarchy and end a criminal probe of the UAW.

UAW's highest paid contractors have reportedly been the subject of a federal investigation, and his cohorts if he had had more time.

"As a Trump appointee, Mr. Schneider knew late last year he was almost certain to be replaced by another prosecutor once Joe Biden was inaugurated as President.

"Given that Mr. Biden gratefully accepted the endorsement of top UAW bosses back in April and the support of their forced dues-funded political machine in the months that followed, there is ample reason to doubt a Biden Justice Department will ever support a serious attempt to root out UAW corruption."

'The Settlement Is Watered Down From What Was Expected'

Among the doubters is Michigan law professor Erik Gordon, who right after the Schneider-Gamble announcement observed to the *Detroit Free Press's* Eric D. Lawrence:

"The settlement is watered down from what was expected. The government may be anxious to get what it can before the new administration takes over in Washington, and union [bosses] seem to have taken advantage of that."

In an open letter sent to Mr. Schneider last summer, National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix (writing in his capacity as president of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation) laid out what "fundamental" reform of the UAW would entail.

The crimes of UAW chieftains, wrote Mr. Mix, were greatly facilitated by "their dual coercive powers of monopoly exclusive representation and authorization to cut deals mandating that rank-and-file workers pay union dues, or else be fired (in states without Right to Work protections)."


Mr. Schneider did not respond, and the fact is, not a single worker who is now forced to accept the representation of the corrupt UAW at the bargaining table against his or her wishes will be unshackled from that obligation by the Schneider-Gamble deal.

Moreover, not a single worker who is currently forced to fork over dues or fees to the crooked UAW as a job condition will be relieved of this oppression by the Schneider-Gamble deal.

Mr. Mourad commented:

"If the deal becomes final after receiving approval from a federal judge, Mr. Gamble and other UAW bosses will be allowed to have input as U.S. District Judge David Lawson selects an 'independent monitor and an officer armed with investigatory, review and discipline powers.'"

"The cost of hiring and retaining a monitor will be very high, likely running into the millions of dollars.

"And the cost of paying for the monitor necessitated by rampant corruption among union officials will be borne by workers. In states like Ohio, Missouri and Illinois, where compulsory unionism remains legal, production workers who balk at paying the price for the crimes others committed will be subject to termination from their jobs." 

Union Dons ‘Content’ With Shuttered Schools

Monopoly-Bargaining Laws Empower Them to Block School Re-Openings

It’s been almost a year now since politicians across America “temporarily” shut down K-12 schools in their jurisdictions as part of an extraordinary effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Last summer, as more and more became known about COVID-19, there emerged a strong, worldwide consensus among public health specialists that schoolchildren face less risk from COVID-19 than they do from the flu and that schools are not important vectors of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, many if not most K-12 public schoolchildren are still not attending school in-person this winter.

And the principal reason why is the inordinate power wielded by teacher union bosses over school operations in the vast majority of the 50 states.

‘Schools Are Not Hot Spots For Coronavirus Infections’

“It would be reasonable for teacher union bosses to oppose schools being open if COVID-19 posed a major risk to schoolchildren or to educators themselves,” said National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King.

“But the fact is that the risk to kids is very low. Children aged 5-17 are far less likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19 than they are for the seasonal flu, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics. Children are also far less likely to die from COVID-19 than they are from the flu.

“It’s also true, as an article published in the scientific journal *Nature* last October noted, that young children infected with



Credit: Andrew Harnik, AP

Union boss Becky Pringle apparently favors keeping teachers away from the classroom for as long as possible.

COVID-19 are far less likely to transmit it than adults are, and adolescents are no more likely to transmit this disease than adults are.

“The data show ‘schools are not hot spots for coronavirus infections.’

“Teachers who offer instruction to children in-person are for that reason almost certainly no more likely to be infected with COVID-19 on the job than people who work somewhere other than at a school.”

Union Boss: Teachers Shouldn’t Be ‘Bullied’ Into Returning to Classroom

Ms. King went on to point out that, while there is minimal if any health benefit from keeping schools shuttered, the educational costs are high:

“In school districts where classes

continue to be on-line only, there is ample evidence the quality of instruction is inferior to what it was before. Students are failing more classes. And more kids are dropping out of school altogether.”

As the evidence mounts that their kids are being denied the benefits of in-person instruction for no good reason, parents in many school districts are demanding that schools reopen, and this winter more and more city and state elected officials finally seem to be heeding them.

That infuriates union bosses like Becky Pringle, who assumed the presidency of the mammoth National Education Association (NEA) union last year.

According to Ms. Pringle, school officials, mayors and governors who fight to keep schools open, or reopen them, while making good-faith efforts to ensure they operate safely, are “bullying” teachers “into returning . . . to classrooms”!

Even as Ms. Pringle and other powerful teacher union bosses insist that their members be fast-tracked for COVID-19 vaccinations, they also insist that their members should not be expected to return to the classroom after they have been vaccinated.

Expressing sentiments undoubtedly shared by many parents of school-aged children around the country, *National Review* correspondent Jim Geraghty has noted that Ms. Pringle’s bullying crack epitomizes how “teachers’ unions are quite content” with the status quo “of students attempting to learn from home.”

This attitude, said Mr. Geraghty, is “worthy of scorn.”

Ms. King commented:

“As infuriating as the hostility of Big Labor bosses to school reopenings is, it wouldn’t matter much if politicians in more than 30 states hadn’t passed laws granting union bosses monopoly-bargaining power over how teachers in public schools are compensated and managed.

“These special-interest statutes have turned the NEA and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) unions into political juggernauts across the U.S., even in states like North Carolina and Texas that have sensibly refused to adopt government-sector monopoly bargaining.

“And, as the late Al Shanker, a longtime national AFT boss, bluntly acknowledged, there is no ‘voice for students’ in the monopoly-bargaining ‘process.’ Students’ interests, Mr. Shanker added, are ‘basically . . . left out.’”



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www.nrtwc.org

February 2021

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Can Virginia Wash Its Hands of 2020 Follies?

Organized Labor Power Grab Could Fiscally Destroy Old Dominion

Big Labor-backed Democrats in the Virginia General Assembly rammed through misguided and disastrous legislation harming the Old Dominion's taxpayers and working men and women in 2020.

Union-label politicians repealed Virginia's ban on government-sector monopoly bargaining, allowing union bosses to seize additional power and reign supreme over government workers.

Democrat Gov. Doug Wilder signed Virginia's government-sector monopoly-bargaining ban into law in 1993.

The current Virginia Democrat politicians who repealed it tacitly attacked Mr. Wilder's character and disregarded why it was enacted in the first place.

In another 2020 folly, Richmond politicians passed costly and unnecessary prevailing wage requirements that enrich union bosses at taxpayers' expense.

Moreover, union-label Democrats further rigged the construction industry job market to benefit union bosses by authorizing discriminatory project labor agreement ("PLA") requirements. PLA's effectively block union-free businesses from bidding on government contracts.

Not to be outdone, a self-described socialist and his allies in Richmond tried last year to repeal the state Right to Work law that's been on the books since 1947.

Fortunately, the National Right to Work Committee and its freedom-loving

allies were able to stop Del. Lee Carter (Manassas) from repealing Right to Work in Virginia in 2020.

Unfortunately, union-label Democrats -- who currently control the General Assembly and every statewide elected office -- can be expected to continue trying to tighten union bosses' control over government and reinstitute forced unionism in the private sector.

Big Labor Still Determined To Destroy Employees' Right to Work in Virginia

Mr. Carter failed to get the hint after his 2020 Right to Work repeal scheme stalled due to overwhelming and well-mobilized public opposition.

In 2021, this radical has reintroduced his bill to repeal Right to Work protections for employees.

Mr. Carter is even running for governor this year largely to put pressure on other Democrat gubernatorial candidates to back his anti-worker agenda 100%.

Unfortunately, Big Labor's long reach doesn't stop with Mr. Carter.

Union kingpins have already given \$400,000 to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Carroll Foy, clearly expecting her to do their bidding.

One Big Labor boss was quoted saying, "Jennifer Carroll Foy has a proven

track record" of advancing Big Labor's priorities as a former legislator, and another called her "one of a kind."

If Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining scheme takes effect as scheduled on May 1, it will entrench union bosses' power in Virginia, and it will have detrimental consequences for taxpayers, families, and business.

In Hawaii, Big Labor is now wielding its monopoly-bargaining powers to thwart modest proposals by the Democrat governor to help the state deal with a financial crunch related to the coronavirus pandemic.

As a result, the governor is now openly threatening tax increases. If Big Labor's Virginia power play takes hold, the state's residents will undoubtedly suffer in the form of higher taxes.

Right to Work Is Standing Strong Against Virginia Unions Bosses' Power Grab

The National Right to Work Committee and its allies are fighting Big Labor and its henchmen tooth and nail to restore Virginia's ban on government-sector monopoly bargaining and protect its cherished Right to Work law.

Specifically, the National Right to Work Committee has galvanized supporters, inundated Virginia legislators with letters, and worked with allies in an uphill battle to reverse the disastrous imposition of monopoly bargaining.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President John Kalb commented:

"While the current financial crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic highlights how much strain public-sector unionism will put on Virginia, it is always important for the Commonwealth to support the interests of independent-minded employees and taxpayers.

"With Virginia's ban on monopolistic government unionism no longer in place, it won't be long before Democrat politicians start doling out sweetheart deals that benefit union bosses. Expect the quality of government services to deteriorate as union bosses begin forcing government to hire cronies bent on bilking taxpayers for as much as they can."

Mr. Kalb concluded: "The fact is, sound fiscal decisions necessary for good governance are all the harder for states that authorize monopoly bargaining, even in more normal times." 📣



Credit: Potomac Local News

Big Labor Del. Lee Carter (Manassas, shown above in May 2020 photo) has become notorious for his rancor directed at Virginia police, but his enmity toward employees who choose to work union-free is even greater.

Right to Work Key For Advanced Manufacturing

'Common Denominator Among States Attracting . . . Aerospace' Jobs

Unlike many politicians and academics who make public claims about the economic impact of Right to Work laws, John Boyd must make correct analyses to succeed professionally.

He is the founder of the Boyd Company, a Princeton, N.J.-based consulting company that attracts and retains clients by giving them sound advice about where to make job-creating investments.

And Mr. Boyd has no doubt about where the "center of gravity" in the U.S. today is when it comes to "advanced manufacturing jobs."

As he explained to John Henry Smith of Connecticut Public Radio in an interview last November, Right to Work is a "common denominator among states attracting both aerospace and other types of advanced manufacturing."

Airbus in Alabama, Gulfstream In Georgia, Lockheed Martin, Boeing in South Carolina

Mr. Boyd's comments came in response to a question about the then just-announced decision by Raytheon -- the parent company of East Hartford, Conn.-based Pratt & Whitney -- to build a new plant in Right to Work North Carolina, rather than in forced-unionism Connecticut.

The Raytheon move is just one of a host of examples of how Right to Work states are outcompeting Big Labor-ruled states like Connecticut for high-paying jobs, emphasized Mr. Boyd.

"It's Airbus in [Right to Work] Alabama, Gulfstream in [Right to Work] Georgia, and Lockheed Martin and Boeing in [Right to Work] South Carolina."

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen commented:

"The fact is, U.S. manufacturing employment was increasing for years and years prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the draconian political responses to it last year.

"Moreover, after a brief, albeit steep, COVID-19-related decline, factory jobs now appear to be on the rise again. But job growth in the manufacturing sector hasn't been and isn't today spread out evenly across the country.

"For many years, it has been concentrated in states where laws prohibiting the forced payment of dues or fees to a labor union have been adopted and taken effect.



Credit: Previously published in the Bond Buyer

Biggest Factory-Job Losers, 2009-19

New York	-7.7%
Maryland	-6.9%
New Mexico	-5.3%
Rhode Island	-5.0%
New Jersey	-4.2%
Vermont	-3.8%
Connecticut	-3.8%

All seven are forced-dues states.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Site-selection specialist John Boyd recently observed that forced-unionism states like Connecticut are hobbled in attracting and retaining cutting-edge manufacturing jobs. Years and years of U.S. Labor Department data bear him out.

"As of today, 27 states have laws on the books that protect employees from being forced to bankroll a union, on pain of termination.

"From 2009 to 2019, manufacturing payroll employment expanded by 10.0% in the 22 states that had Right to Work laws in effect for the entire decade.

"That's more than triple the aggregate 2.9% gain for the 23 states that were still forced-unionism at the end of the decade."

By 2019, 53% of America's manufacturing jobs were located in Right to Work states.

On average, these jobs paid better than their counterparts in compulsory-unionism states, when regional differences in the cost of living are taken into account.

Factory Employees in Right To Work States Enjoy a Higher Standard of Living

U.S. Commerce Department data, adjusted for cost-of-living differences according to an index calculated by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, a state government agency, show that in 2019 the average annual compensation per Right to Work state manufacturing employee was \$83,107.

That's roughly \$4,000 higher than the average for states that lack Right to Work protections.

"Forced-unionism states are losing

good jobs to Right to Work states for reasons that have nothing to do with how much compensation employees receive in pay and benefits," noted Mr. Leen.

"Boeing's decision last fall to end all production of its 787 Dreamliner in forced-unionism Washington State, and consolidate production of the popular wide-body jet in its 11-year-old South Carolina facility, is one recent example."

Boeing: Assembling Planes in Right to Work South Carolina Makes Us 'More Efficient'

In a memo to employees last October 1, Boeing executive Stan Deal explained the decision: "[W]e look at every opportunity to adapt, preserve our liquidity and be more competitive in a very different commercial market."

The company ultimately concluded that "the move will make producing the Dreamliner more efficient and help it better target factory improvements," according to the *Wall Street Journal's* news account that afternoon.

"To be successful," concluded Mr. Leen, "today's factories require employees who are willing and able to develop their skills and show individual initiative.

"That why a forced-unionism regime under which employees are required to submit to Big Labor in order to keep their jobs is simply incompatible with modern manufacturing."

Bailout Scheme Blocked

Continued from page 8

staff repeatedly communicated with then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's [R-Ky.] office about the need to prevent it or any other union-pension bailout from being passed by his chamber.

"And the momentum for a massive federal bailout gradually declined last year as it became clear 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.

"Contrary to Ms. Pelosi's expectations, Right to Work state governors and lawmakers never joined their counterparts from forced-unionism states in pressing for a federal bailout.

"Finally, rather than put this political hot potato in the hands of incoming Democrat President Joe Biden, Ms. Pelosi decided to settle for H.R.133."

With the possibility that federal taxpayers will be forced to plug the holes in their state budgets now greatly diminished, at least in the short term, politicians like J.B. Pritzker, Gavin Newsom, and Andrew Cuomo are scrambling to come up with other ways of getting out of their fiscal jams.

Gov. Pritzker is in the worst fix of all. Illinois' budget in Fiscal 2021 is \$4 billion

out of balance. The state is projected to have more than \$10 billion in unpaid bills by June 30. According to Moody's Investor's Service, the aggregate unfunded liabilities in Illinois government pension plans reached \$261 billion last year.

Unfunded liabilities are expected to keep expanding even with pensions poised to consume nearly 29% of Illinois' budget in Fiscal 2022!

To Save Beleaguered States, Union Monopoly Privileges Must Be Revoked

"If Illinois and other states that are plummeting into fiscal abysses want to salvage their futures," said Mr. Mix, "it is absolutely necessary that they remove, within the next few years, government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining power over employee pay, benefits, and work rules.

"Other reforms will also undoubtedly be necessary. But without monopoly-bargaining repeal no other reform or set of reforms will suffice.

"Under the current labor laws of Illinois, California, and New York, union bosses can and will wield their special privileges to block common-sense reforms in the way public employees are compensated.



Credit: WSYR-TV (Syracuse, N.Y.)

Gov. Cuomo is concocting state tax hikes that will, he admits, "hurt families and hurt the economy."

"Unfortunately, even now that they know that federal taxpayer-funded bailouts won't be coming their way soon, Big Labor state politicians are clearly not ready yet to do what they need to do to save their constituents from looming catastrophes.

"Instead, having apparently failed to foist the burden of their own mismanagement on taxpayers across the U.S., union-label politicians are looking to foist the entire burden on their own taxpaying constituents."


Scandal-Ridden Illinois Speaker Backs Across-the-Board Income Tax Hike

Mr. Mix elaborated:

"In Illinois, lame-duck House Speaker Mike Madigan [D-Chicago] was pushing early this year for an across-the-board income tax hike.

"In New York, pro-forced unionism Gov. Andrew Cuomo [D] has been warning lately that he plans to ram through 'devastating' and 'dramatic' state tax increases that will 'hurt families and hurt the economy' rather than try to curtail government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining power.

"In California, Big Labor and some of its puppet politicians are even backing a new, seemingly unconstitutional law empowering the state government to continue extracting taxes from people long after they've moved to another state.

"I'm hopeful the citizens of Illinois, New York and California won't tolerate such abusive behavior by their elected officials much longer. In the meantime, citizens of relatively fiscally responsible states must remain vigilant to ensure they aren't forced to pay for Big Labor-dominated states' mistakes." 



Credit: Roberto Rodriguez

Just last June, Big Labor California Gov. Gavin Newsom (left, pictured with former state teacher union chief Eric Heins) signed a multi-billion-dollar tax increase on job-creating businesses. Now union bosses are hungry for more.

Union-Boss Bailout Scheme Blocked For Now

Real Solution to State Fiscal Woes Must Include Labor-Law Reform

During the waning days of the 116th U.S. Congress late last year, the news hit union-label Govs. J.B. Pritzker (D-Ill.), Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.), and Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) like a cold slap in the face.

For months, they had counted on politicians inside Washington, D.C.'s Beltway to bestow on their states and those of other Big Labor politicians tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars in "no-strings-attached" federal taxpayer money.

They were planning on using this money to paper over catastrophic deficits and soaring long-term debts caused primarily by poor budgetary decisions made by themselves and their like-minded predecessors.

But on January 2, the 116th Congress finally came to an end, and no union-boss bailout legislation had been sent to the White House.

Taxpayers 'In Well-Run States Should Not Have To Bail Out Illinois'

"Thank Heaven for small mercies," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"The \$900 billion in so-called 'COVID-19 relief' sent to outgoing President Donald Trump's desk on December 21, along with another \$1.4 trillion in omnibus appropriations, as H.R.133 was widely and correctly seen as a bloated mess.

"It includes, for example, roughly \$54 billion for overwhelmingly unionized government K-12 schools. This payoff went through even though, largely because of the outsized clout of teacher union bosses, only about a third of kids in government schools today are attending in-person classes full time.

"But Big Labor and its cheerleaders were nevertheless disappointed by what H.R.133 didn't include, specifically, blank checks for states and localities that are fiscally struggling today primarily because of decades of fiscal mismanagement.

"This is an incremental, but important victory for National Right to Work Committee supporters and staff who fought persistently in 2020 to prevent putative 'COVID-19 relief' from being turned into a bailout for government union boss-stronghold states like Illinois, California, and New York.

"As the premier newspaper in one of these states, the *Chicago Tribune*, acknowledged in an editorial published right after H.R.133 was sent to the White House, the bailout scheme by Big Labor politicians like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi [D-Calif.] was simply wrong.

"In the words of the *Tribune's* editors, 'taxpayers across the country and particularly in well-run states should not have to bail out Illinois'"

Desperate Union-Label Politicians Seized on COVID-19 as an Opportunity

For decades, a number of states that lack Right to Work protections for employees and authorize extensive government-sector union monopoly bargaining have been piling up unfunded liabilities for taxpaying employees and employers in their jurisdictions.

Early last year, 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, California, New York, et al.

Their instrument of choice was the so-

called "HEROES" Act (H.R.6800), a \$3 trillion, federal taxpayer-funded bailout package.

It included nearly \$1.1 trillion in funds for state and local governments, supposedly to help public officials close temporary budget gaps directly resulting from COVID-19 and COVID-19 shutdowns.

The reality of the scheme was it would have enabled Big Labor-ruled states to continue to avoid addressing their fundamental problems. These problems 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.

The HEROES Act was rubber-stamped by the U.S. House last May.

Pensions Set to Consume 29% Of Illinois Budget in Coming Fiscal Year

Mr. Mix recalled:

"After rabidly pro-forced unionism Speaker Pelosi got her way and H.R.6800 sailed through the House, Right to Work

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Forced-unionism Illinois is projected to have more than \$10 billion in unpaid bills by June 30. And according to Moody's Investor's Service, the aggregate unfunded liabilities in Illinois government pension plans exceed \$260 billion.