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Kentucky Enacts 27th State Right to Work Law *Two More States May Bar Compulsory Union Dues and Fees This Year*

In 2015, Big Labor dipped heavily into its forced union dues-funded treasuries to wage extensive voter I.D. and get-out-the-vote drives to ensure entrepreneur Matt Bevin (R) didn't become the Bluegrass State's next governor.

And union bosses weren't ashamed to admit the fact that the #1 reason they opposed the GOP gubernatorial nominee so ferociously was his unabashed support for making Kentucky a Right to Work state.

But on November 3, 2015, Kentuckians defied the union hierarchy, favoring Mr. Bevin over union-label Attorney General Jack Conway by a decisive 85,000-vote margin.

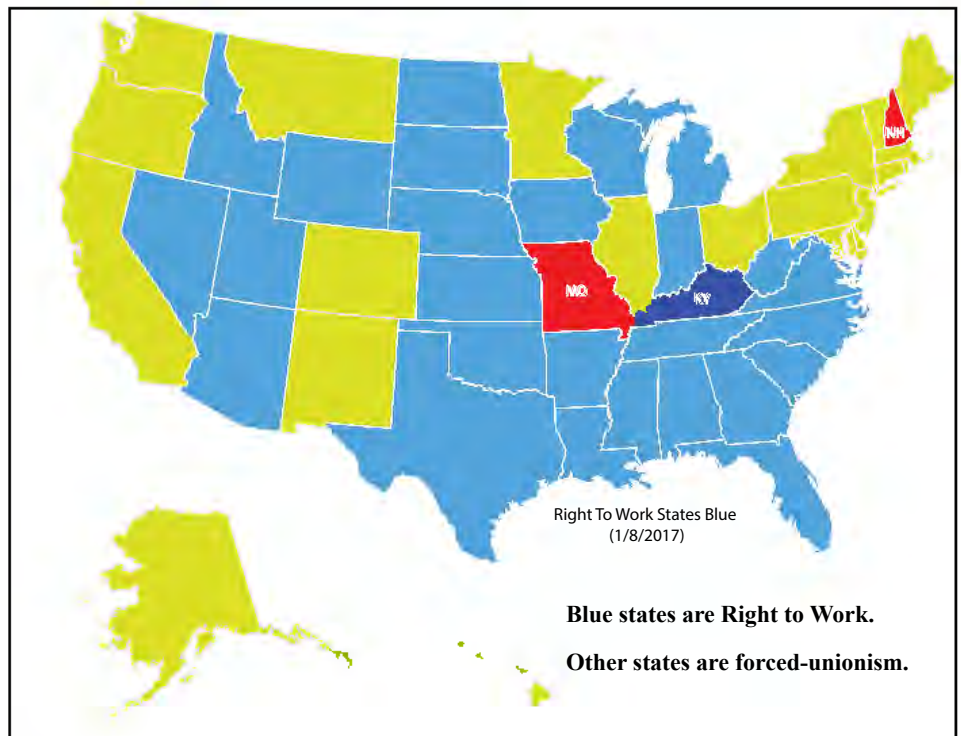
And roughly 14 months later, on January 7, Gov. Bevin got the opportunity to sign legislation ending Kentucky's status as, to quote the words he wistfully used on the campaign trail, "the only state in the South that doesn't have Right-to-Work legislation."

He seized it that very day.

Mark Mix: 'This Is the Culmination of a Persistent, Hard-Fought Battle'

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix applauded the adoption by the fifth state in five years of a law that protects employees from being forced either to bankroll a union they would never join voluntarily, or face termination.

He noted that, within a very short time, Missouri is expected to join Kentucky and the 26 other Right to Work states in upholding employees' fundamental right to freedom of association. Yet another state, New Hampshire, could also go Right to Work this winter.



Barely more than five years ago, 22 states had laws on the books banning compulsory union dues. Thanks to the victory won last month by grass-roots Kentuckians with National Committee members' assistance, the number is now 27.

Of course, Committee members will continue fighting until no workers, anywhere in America, can be forced to pay union dues or fees simply so they can keep their jobs and support their families.

On behalf of all Committee members, Mr. Mix offered his "warm congratulations to freedom-loving Kentuckians and the elected officials who heeded their pleas to stand up to Big Labor."

He specifically mentioned Mr. Bevin, House Speaker Jeff Hoover (R-Jamestown), House Economic Development and Workforce Investment Chairman Jim DeCesare (R-Bowling

Green), Senate President Robert Stivers (R-Manchester), Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown), and Senate State and Local Government Chairman Joe Bowen (R-Owensboro).

"This is the culmination of a persistent, hard-fought battle to end compulsory unionism in the Bluegrass State," said Mr. Mix.

"The National Committee has for years been calling upon candidates in Kentucky to pledge 100% support for Right to Work, and giving encouragement and counsel to grass-roots citizens seeking

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Forced Unionism Defeated Again

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to pass a state law revoking union officials' forced-dues and forced-fee privileges."

'Every Worker Has the Right To Pay Dues to a Union, But No Worker Should Be Forced'

"Every worker has the right to pay dues to a union, but no worker should be forced," continued Mr. Mix.

"We have for years foreseen and predicted passage of a Kentucky Right to Work law. But before this victory could happen, Right to Work activists first had to clear away several obstacles. The last one was Big Labor domination of the state House of Representatives."

Mr. Mix explained: "By the time Matt Bevin took office as Kentucky chief executive at the beginning of 2016, the Kentucky Senate had already gone on the record in support of a state law curtailing Big Labor's forced-dues privileges.

"Throughout the 2016 legislative session, consequently, it was up to Democrat House Speaker Greg Stumbo [Prestonburg] and his allies to perpetuate union bosses' monopoly control over workers.

"But on Election Day, 2016, Mr. Stumbo was defeated, and his caucus shriveled from holding a majority of House seats to holding barely more than a third."

National Committee Mobilized Right to Work Supporters Across the State

Mr. Mix observed that, even with the mostly pro-Right to Work Republican Party poised to hold a 64-36 majority in the House following the 2016 elections, the votes for forced-dues revocation were not simply there for the asking.

"A number of the Bluegrass State's GOP representatives have histories of supporting forced unionism, and several other GOP House members were still sitting on the fence after Election Day," explained Mr. Mix.

"That's why, well before the 2017 legislative session convened, the National Committee began mobilizing its members and other identified Right to Work supporters in Kentucky to contact lawmakers and ask them to send voluntary-unionism legislation to Mr. Bevin's desk.

"Given the ferocity with which Big

Labor opposes all efforts to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice, victory is never assured for Right to Work supporters.

"But soon after the National and the Kentucky Right to Work Committees contacted more than 100,000 households in Kentucky regarding the pending Right to Work measure, the state House approved it, 58-39. The same measure subsequently cleared the state Senate, 25-12.

"Probably the most important contribution of all made by National Right to Work to freedom-loving Kentuckians' victory was the Committee's work since 2003 in helping build legislative and public support for the 23rd state Right to Work law in Indiana."

Pro-Right to Work Hoosiers' Early 2012 Victory Set Off a Chain Reaction

"Roughly 14 years ago," pointed out Mr. Mix, "when few political observers considered expanding Right to Work protections to the Great Lakes region to be a serious possibility, a group of Hoosiers launched a determined effort to do precisely that in their home state.

"From the beginning, the National Committee assisted the efforts of these

citizens and the organization they soon put into high gear, the Indiana Right to Work Committee.

"By early 2015, three years after the Indiana Right to Work law was signed in February 2012, two more Great Lakes states, Michigan and Wisconsin, had Right to Work laws on the books.

"And in 2016, West Virginia, a border state that, to quote the *Washington Post*, 'essentially gave birth to the modern [Organized Labor] movement,' became the 26th Right to Work state."

'Right to Work Supporters Won't Rest On Their Laurels'

"Thanks to the principled foes of compulsory unionism in Kentucky and their allies throughout the country, 49% of America's wage-and-salary employees now live in a state with Right to Work protections," Mr. Mix continued.

"Just six years ago, only 40% of the wage-and-salary employees across the U.S. were covered by Right to Work laws.

"It's a record of which the voluntary-unionism movement should be proud. But Right to Work supporters won't rest on their laurels.

"We won't be satisfied until all employees in the country, private-sector and public-sector alike, have the right to keep their jobs without being forced to fork over union fees." 📣



CREDIT: TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

In 2016, the efforts of Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (pictured here with Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton) to liberate workers from forced unionism were stymied by an anti-Right to Work House speaker. Voters recently removed that roadblock.

Trump Administration Resolve a Necessity

Bureaucrats May Undermine Efforts to Undo Big Labor Power Grabs

Thumbing their noses at Right to Work supporters and independent-minded employees, and at their allies in Congress, Barack Obama and his appointees furnished Big Labor with an array of weapons to force millions of employees into unions over the past eight years.

For example, just last April, the Obama Labor Department finalized its “persuader” rule.

It is designed to gut employees’ right to hear both sides of the story regarding union representation by making it impractical for employers to seek expert advice regarding their communications with employees during unionization campaigns.

And the month after the “persuader” rule was finalized, the Obama National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued its *American Baptist Homes of the West* decision, sharply curtailing employees’ freedom to work in defiance of Big Labor strike orders.

Pro-forced unionism NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce and one other radical Obama appointee found that employers facing a labor stoppage commit an “unfair labor practice” whenever they offer permanent jobs to nonstriking workers if they are at least partially motivated by a desire to prevent future strikes.

Obama NLRB Reportedly Overturned More Than 4500 Years of Legal Precedent

“Fortunately, even before the Trump Administration moved into the White House, some of the Obama team’s forced-unionism-friendly edicts, including the so-called ‘persuader’ rule, had been turned back in the courts,” noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

“Other Big Labor power grabs will likely be relatively easy for Donald Trump to undo, assuming the new President meant what he said when he identified himself as a strong Right to Work supporter while on the campaign trail.

“But some of the Obama Administration’s anti-Right to Work bureaucratic power grabs are unlikely to be blocked by the courts and cannot be overturned by executive order.

“And the chronic rewriting of federal labor law by the Obama NLRB, which according to one published estimate overturned 91 precedents and more than 4500 years of cumulative case law, will



CREDIT: LABORUNIONSREPORT.COM

Virulent Right to Work foe Richard Griffin will stay on as the NLRB’s top lawyer until this November.

surely take years to reverse, if it is ever to be reversed at all.”

Ex-Union Lawyer Will Remain NLRB General Counsel Until November

Mr. Leen emphasized that radical ex-union lawyer Richard Griffin’s term as NLRB general counsel does not expire until this November.

And when union bosses break the law and refuse to grant employees even the limited freedom of choice that federal labor law is supposed to afford them, they typically cannot vindicate their rights without the general counsel’s help.

“American Baptist Homes of the West

and most of the other damage done to individual employee rights by the Obama NLRB stemmed from cases originally heard by administrative law judges,” said Mr. Leen.

“To undo the damage, new cases will have to be brought, make their way through the NLRB bureaucracy, and ultimately be heard by the board itself.

“It is feasible that all of the most egregious expansions of Big Labor’s compulsory-unionism privileges implemented by the Obama NLRB could eventually be rolled back, but that will require a great deal of resolve from the new President and his appointees.”

Permanent Bureaucrat Openly Hopes President Trump’s ‘Attention Span’ Is Short

Mr. Leen added that the challenge faced by the Trump Administration from pro-forced unionism “permanent” bureaucrats as well as Obama holdovers is underscored by anonymous emails solicited by and sent to journalist Hamilton Nolan after the November elections.

One NLRB lawyer boasted of the agency’s success at defying the lawmakers who vote for its budget and “weathering” court decisions finding that it had acted outside of its legal authority.

The bureaucrat also bemoaned the possibility that a national Right to Work law could be adopted during the Trump presidency.

A Department of Labor employee who emailed Mr. Nolan was also rabidly anti-Trump, but hopeful that the incoming President’s “attention span” would be too short to address the federal bureaucracy’s chronic pro-forced unionism bias! 🗳️

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Beleaguered Iowa Taxpayers Deserve Real Reform

Monopoly Bargaining a Vast Obstacle to Fiscal Responsibility

For years, Republican elected officials in Iowa have contended they want to protect the interests of overburdened taxpayers and independent-minded public employees by sharply reducing the scope of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges.

Until this year, however, GOP politicians have been powerless to rein in government union abuses.

State Sen. Mike Gronstal (Council Bluffs), majority leader of the Iowa Legislature's upper chamber from 2007 to 2016, and his Democrat caucus were vehemently opposed to all significant changes in state labor law lacking the union hierarchy's seal of approval.

And Mr. Gronstal and his cohorts had the power to perpetuate the pro-union monopoly status quo.

But during the 2017 legislative session, which will begin shortly after this Newsletter edition goes to press, Mr. Gronstal will no longer be an obstacle to genuine reform.

Even in Right to Work States, Monopoly Bargaining Gives Politicians Bad Incentives

That's because last November, fed-up Iowa voters unseated him and enabled Republicans to take over majority control

in the Senate.

Bill Dix (R-Shell Rock), the incoming Senate majority leader, returning state House Speaker Linda Upmeyer (R-Clear Lake), and GOP Gov. Terry Branstad are all on the record in support of rolling back union bosses' power to act as government employees' "exclusive" bargaining agents.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Mary King commented:

"Dramatic change is needed. Even in Right to Work states like Iowa, laws that hand government union bigwigs the privilege to speak for members and nonmembers alike on matters concerning their pay, benefits, and work rules create bad incentives for politicians. And taxpayers suffer the consequences."

Iowa Public Pension Plans Are Underfunded by an Estimated \$46 Billion

Ms. King cited a late 2016 report prepared for the American Legislative Exchange Council estimating that Iowa has accumulated over \$46 billion in unfunded public pension liabilities, or \$14,861 per state resident.

In addition to undermining the solvency of the state, the improvident pension promises Big Labor extracts from politicians by wielding its monopoly-

bargaining might actually make it more difficult for public employers to attract and retain good employees.

"The outsized retirement and other benefits demanded and obtained by union bosses end up leaving insufficient funds available to offer competitive salaries and wages," explained Ms. King. "Ultimately, no one wins except Big Labor."

Flat-Out Ban on Government-Sector Monopoly Bargaining Is the Best Approach

Nearly six years ago, Wisconsin, a neighbor of Iowa's, became the first state in U.S. history to implement a major legislative rollback of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges.

One key provision in the package of reforms, known as Act 10, permanently stripped most government union bosses of the monopoly power to negotiate benefits and work rules for employees who don't want a union and choose not to join as well as for union members.

Early last year, an analysis prepared and published by the MacIver Institute, a pro-free market think tank based in Madison, Wisc., estimated that Act 10 had saved state and local taxpayers a total of \$5.24 billion since it took effect in mid-2011.

However, as impressive as the results of Act 10 have been, it is far from ideal. "Loopholes in Act 10 have allowed certain government union bosses to retain virtually all of their special privileges," explained Ms. King. "And the law is unnecessarily complex."

The simplest and best approach for Iowa reformers this year would be to adopt a statute that flat-out prohibits Big Labor monopoly bargaining in the government sector, as North Carolina did in 1959.

"The federal courts have held again and again that union officials have no constitutional right to force a state or locality to bargain with them or to force an independent-minded employee to accept unwanted Big Labor 'services,'" said Ms. King.

"At a bare minimum, Iowa lawmakers owe it to their state taxpayers to repeal all the current labor-law provisions authorizing and promoting union monopoly bargaining in government workplaces." 🗳️



CREDIT: IOWA SENATE REPUBLICANS

Incoming Iowa state Senate Majority Leader Bill Dix is vowing to "reduce the size of state government" and "improve the quality of life for all Iowans." Banning monopolistic unionism in the public sector would surely advance both objectives.

Union Monopolists Undermine New York Security Port Authority ‘Hamstrung’ by Big Labor-Instigated Work Rules

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, a joint venture between the Empire and Garden States, is charged with ensuring the safe operation of much of the transportation in the New York City region, including bridges, tunnels, airports, and waterports.

Most notably, as Judith Miller and Alex Armlovich of the Manhattan Institute explained in an article about this agency appearing last fall in *City Journal*, the Port Authority is responsible for patrolling “the nation’s highest-value terrorist target: the 16-acre World Trade Center complex . . .”

Unfortunately, according to the Miller-Armlovich analysis, even though spending on security has skyrocketed since 9/11, the Port Authority does a remarkably poor job of keeping New York City safe.

Long-Confidential Report Decried ‘Profoundly Deficient’ Security

Ms. Miller and Mr. Armlovich cited a long-confidential 2011 report by Michael Chertoff, the former federal homeland security director, who currently heads a security-consulting firm.

Mr. Chertoff concluded that the Port Authority’s security practices were “profoundly deficient at every level, in every key functional area.”

The primary reason the Port Authority has been and remains incapable of doing its job is the extensive legal monopoly-bargaining power union bosses wield over roughly 5500 of its 7800 employees, concluded Ms. Miller and Mr. Armlovich:

“An examination of the Port Authority police and its operations -- including correspondence secured under the Freedom of Information Act . . . and interviews with more than a dozen veteran counterterrorism experts, scholars, and law enforcement officials, suggests the Authority’s police remain poorly managed . . . and hamstrung by work rules.

“These rules, negotiated by unions and accepted by Port Authority management, are a particular problem when it comes to security because they restrict the agency’s ability to deploy its police effectively.”

One glaring recent example of a security failure was the police’s inability to quell last summer’s stampede at John



As a consequence of public-safety labor policies that authorize and promote union monopoly bargaining and ultimately “restrict” the Port Authority’s “ability to deploy its police effectively,” security at the World Trade Center complex suffers.

F. Kennedy Airport, triggered by false reports of a terrorist attack.

Overtime Costs at the Port Authority Average Roughly \$300,000 a Day!

Despite the fact that the Port Authority has added roughly 450 police officers to its workforce since 2013, managers didn’t have sufficient staff on hand for effective crowd control last August, because Big Labor power over scheduling makes it impossible to handle work assignments in a cost-effective way.

And, as Ms. Miller and Mr. Armlovich showed, an extremely high share of the Port Authority employees who are on the job each day are collecting overtime:

“Overtime costs at the agency over the past seven years have averaged roughly \$300,000 a day, \$2 million a week, and more than \$100 million a year. . . .”

“Thanks largely to overtime sweeteners provided by the Port Authority, one police lieutenant who retired in 2013 with an annual salary of \$129,000 began collecting the following year a lifetime pension of \$172,000, or one-third above his base pay.”

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad commented:

“Just since 2008, the fee to take a Port Authority-controlled bridge or tunnel into New York City has soared from \$8 to \$15. In 2014, the Port Authority collected \$242 million more in aviation fees than it had just five years earlier. Yet the agency now carries a debt of roughly \$20 billion!

“Even Big Labor politicians in New York and New Jersey recognize that government union bosses’ extortion of the commuters and businesses who pay the tolls and fees that maintain the Port Authority has done grave damage to the Big Apple’s job climate.”

Stopping Shakedowns Will Require Drastic Rollback Of Big Labor Privileges

“And the problem is getting worse and worse,” Mr. Mourad continued.

“But stopping the shakedowns will require elimination, or at least a drastic rollback, of union monopoly bargaining at the Port Authority.

“Given the enormous power union bosses wield over politicians in both major parties in New York and New Jersey, this won’t be easy.

“But the alternative for New York City is ever-accelerating economic decline.”

'Corrupt . . . Practices Persist at All Levels'

Judge Orders Teamster Brass to Stop Obstructing Investigation

A long-simmering corruption scandal that implicates multiple current and former officials in the hierarchy of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) union may boil over early this year.

On December 27, Judge Loretta Preska ordered IBT President Jim Hoffa and his administration to turn over more than 32,000 documents to Independent Investigations Officer (IIO) Joseph diGenova.

The judge explained that Mr. diGenova must be granted access to the documents promptly so that he could fulfill his duty to ferret out corruption among "high-ranking IBT officers."

IBT second-in-command Ken Hall, other Hoffa cronies, and union lawyers have, since early last year, been deploying an array of tactics to delay an investigation into alleged illegal solicitation of gifts from unionized employers and other alleged corrupt practices by top IBT officials.

Teamster Veep Allegedly Deployed Forced Dues-Funded Union Resources Against Foes

Last February, the IBT Independent Review Board (IRB) issued a recommendation to the union's General Executive Board that International Vice President Rome Aloise, a close Hoffa

ally, be charged with requesting gifts and personal favors from employers during negotiations. This is a crime designated as "racketeering" under the federal code.

The board also recommended charges be filed against Mr. Aloise for using forced dues-financed union resources to punish political opponents and rig elections for union office.

The IRB report specifically charged that, during contract negotiations, Mr. Aloise tried to use his leverage as a top union boss to obtain jobs for difficult-to-employ relatives from Teamster-controlled companies like UPS, Costco and SWS, the largest liquor distributor in the U.S.

Mr. Aloise also allegedly sought and obtained tickets from SWS to the Playboy Superbowl Party of 2013. The tickets, worth \$9600, were handed over to Mr. Hoffa's executive assistant, W.C. Smith.

Mr. Aloise also allegedly used union and employer resources to finance and orchestrate a coordinated and illegal political attack on rank-and-file members who dared to run for office against an Aloise ally in Stockton, Calif.

Apparently convinced that he had no real choice, Mr. Hoffa accepted the IRB recommendation and filed charges against Mr. Aloise nearly a year ago. But subsequently Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Hall showed their true colors by nominating

Mr. Aloise for another five-year term as an IBT vice president, even as the latter faced an IRB trial for racketeering, violating members' rights, and other infractions.

Investigations Officer: Hoffa Aide W.C. Smith 'Committed An Act of Racketeering'

And even after Mr. Aloise admitted to the IRB that he was under federal criminal investigation last July, Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Hall continued to stonewall, successfully delaying Mr. Aloise's IRB trial again and again.

Mr. Hall also apparently sought to prevent Mr. diGenova from getting the evidence he needed to hold accountable other top Teamster officers who had allegedly been Mr. Aloise's accomplices and/or committed similar violations.


Last fall, Mr. diGenova recommended that charges be filed against Mr. Hall for obstructing the investigation. The IIO also recommended that charges be filed against Mr. Smith.

By "soliciting and receiving a thing of value from an IBT employer," Mr. Smith had "committed an act of racketeering," explained Mr. diGenova.

National Right to Work Law Could at Last Break Cycle of IBT Corruption

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented: "The corruption and obstruction cases Joseph diGenova has presented against Rome Aloise, W.C. Smith, Ken Hall, and other Teamster bigwigs like ex-Political Director Nicole Brener-Schmitz are compelling.

"The evidence indicates that, when U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara asserted in 2014 that 'corrupt . . . practices persist at all levels' of the IBT, he might well have singled out the highest level for its avarice and disregard for the rank-and-file.

"How can the seemingly endless cycle of IBT corruption be broken? Logic and experience point to enactment of a national Right to Work law. Such a law would make it far less difficult for ordinary IBT members to fight union corruption by empowering them to resign and withhold all their dues, without being fired as a consequence." 



Even after agreeing that union bigwig Rome Aloise (right) should be tried by the Teamster review board for racketeering, Jim Hoffa (left) didn't hesitate to nominate him for another five-year vice presidential term!

Right to Work Worth the Effort

Continued from page 8

than would have been the case had forced-unionism been prohibited in their state since 1977!

Richard Vedder is just one of a number of respected economists who have concluded in recent years that laws protecting the Right to Work are a means of raising living standards in a state.

Data Point to a 'Positive' Impact 'on the Economic Well-Being of a State'

Another example is Dr. Michael Hicks, the director for the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and the author of three books and more than 50 scholarly papers.

In a 2013 study for the Midland, Mich.-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Dr. Hicks and coauthor Michael LaFaive described a statistical model they had created to measure the economic impact of state Right to Work laws.

The Hicks-LaFaive model showed that, from 1991 to 2011, the effect of Right to Work laws was to raise annual real personal income growth in the states that have them by 0.7 percentage points. Cumulatively, that amounts to 15.8 percentage points over two decades.

"These findings suggest that [Right to Work] may have a positive -- at times very positive -- impact on the economic well-being of a state and its residents," the authors concluded.

Freedom-Loving Citizens Must Be Mobilized to Defeat Big Labor Lobbying Machine

No matter how compelling the evidence that Right to Work reforms are economically beneficial is, simply presenting such evidence to elected officials never suffices to get them to take effective action.

The obvious reason why is that most politicians fear the power of the multi-billion-dollar Big Labor lobby.

At the same time, most politicians "probably also suspect that public opinion is generally supportive of Right to Work laws," as Dr. Vedder surmised back in early 2010.

Many politicians evidently calculate that these factors "are roughly offsetting, so the politically optimal thing to do is nothing: don't rock the boat."

"Though Richard Vedder is an economist, not a political scientist, his analysis of the way many politicians think is right on target," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark



CREDIT: INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS

Michael Hicks (pictured) and his coauthor: Right to Work benefits should command "policy attention."

Mix.

"That's why it frequently takes several years of painstaking mobilization by freedom-loving citizens to put sufficient pressure on state legislators and executives to adopt and sign into law a Right to Work measure banning forced union dues."

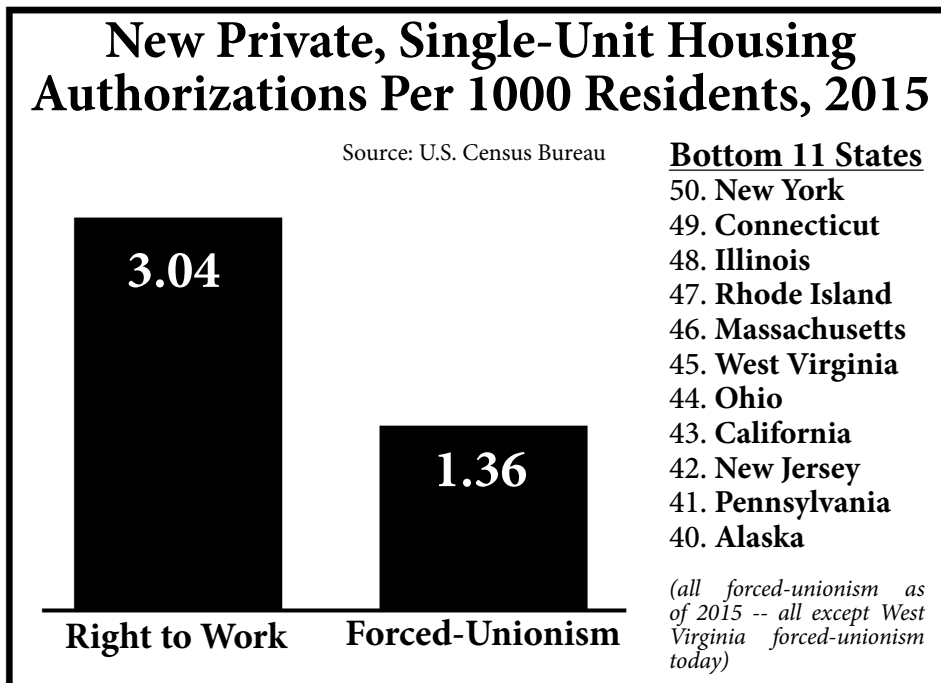
Federal Forced-Dues Repeal Is Committee's Ultimate Goal

"But the vital protections such laws furnish for personal freedom and the economic dynamism they make possible are always well worth the effort," declared Mr. Mix.

"As Michael Hicks and Michael LaFaive wrote in their 2013 paper for Mackinac, '[p]olicymakers interested in improving their state's economic performance should take note' of the evidence indicating Right to Work raises incomes.

"And the Committee and its 2.8 million members and supporters always stand ready to offer our advice and assistance for citizens in any of the remaining forced-unionism states who are willing to take on the fight to bring about passage of new Right to Work laws.

"Moreover, the Committee continues to work for passage of national Right to Work legislation repealing all federal labor-law provisions that authorize forced union dues and fees. Effectively, that would make every state a Right to Work state." 📌



Data from government agencies and private sources show employees have more economic opportunities in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states. And a growing number of economists argue the correlation is no accident.

Economic Policymakers ‘Should Take Note’

Scholarly Analyses Bolster Case For National Right to Work Law

All across America, Right to Work states have long benefited from economic growth far superior to that of states in which millions of employees are forced to join or pay dues or fees to a labor union just to keep their jobs.

And union bosses and their allies have long tried to argue that no one should pay any attention to the data showing that Right to Work status is correlated with faster growth in jobs and aggregate employee compensation.

In recent years, however, Big Labor’s task in trying to distract public attention from forced-unionism states’ relatively poor economic performance has become more difficult.

Economists Contend Right To Work Laws Cause Accelerated Growth

A key reason why is the recent publication of a number of scholarly analyses showing that there is a *causal* positive relationship between the presence of a Right to Work law and economic growth.

In a series of articles published since 2010, eminent economist Richard Vedder and his various coauthors have helped build the case that Right to Work laws increase opportunities and raise employees’ real incomes.

Dr. Vedder, a distinguished professor of economics at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and the author of more than 100 papers published in academic journals as well as several books, is a specialist in labor, taxation and education issues.

Workers Plainly See Greater Economic Opportunity in Right to Work States

With fellow Ohio University economist Lowell Galloway, Dr. Vedder is the coauthor of the acclaimed book *Out of Work*, an examination of the ties between unemployment and public policies in 20th Century America.

In 1994, this book was both the recipient of the Sir Anthony Fisher International Memorial Award and a Mencken Award Finalist.

In “*An Interstate Analysis of Right to Work Laws*,” published by the Washington, D.C.-based Competitive Enterprise Institute in 2014, Dr. Vedder and coauthor



CREDIT: ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

In a 2014 study coauthored with researcher Jonathan Robe, economist Richard Vedder (right) concluded that, over the 1977-2012 period, the lack of a state Right to Work law ultimately reduced annual per capita income by \$2500 to \$3500.

Jonathan Robe called attention to the fact that the “proportion of the American population living in a [Right to Work] environment has steadily grown . . .”

To be specific, in 1970 roughly 29% of Americans lived in a Right to Work state.

By 2013, the Right to Work share of the U.S. population had risen to 46%.

The rise is largely attributable to the addition of five new state Right to Work laws from 1970 to 2013. And the fact is, Right to Work states are where the jobs are.

The Vedder-Robe paper summarized a multiple regression analysis conducted by the authors.

Their aim was to determine if some factor or factors other than the lack of Right to Work protections could possibly account for the chronically slower growth in output and income experienced by states where forced unionism is authorized and promoted.

For example, one model incorporated five non-Right to Work variables “for control purposes,” including change

“in the employment-population ratio,” change “in the proportion of the adult population” with at least a bachelor’s degree education, and percentage of the “nonagricultural working population in manufacturing.”

Right to Work Laws Increased 1977-2012 Economic Growth By 11.5 Percentage Points

Dr. Vedder and Mr. Robe then reported their findings, which covered the 35 years from 1977 to 2012:

“[O]ur results suggest the overall effect of a [Right to Work] law is to increase [cumulative] economic growth rates by 11.5 percentage points . . . This result is significant at the 99% confidence level.”

In personal per capita income terms, the authors estimated that residents of states that still lacked Right to Work protections as of 2012 had a per capita income that year \$2500 to \$3500 lower

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