NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Will Congress Halt Union-Only Public Works?

Obama Edict Still Stacking the Deck Against Independent Hardhats

The National Right to Work Committee and its members are now mobilizing public support for the Fair and Open Competition Act (H.R.1552).

This legislation was approved by a U.S. House panel on March 28. It would bar federal agencies and recipients of federal funding from foisting so-called "project labor agreements" (PLAs) that discriminate against union-free hardhats and their employers on federal taxpayer-funded construction work.

Introduced on March 15 by Rep. Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), H.R.1552 and its Senate companion, S.622, would protect contractors and subcontractors from being required to impose a PLA on their employees in order to submit bids on taxpayer-funded construction.

"The Fair and Open Competition Act would automatically overturn Executive Order 13502, a pro-union monopoly edict issued by Barack Obama in February 2009," explained National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"For more than eight years, E.O.13502 has aggressively promoted the use of discriminatory PLAs on large federal and federally funded projects."

So-called "project labor agreements," or PLAs, effectively force nonunion companies wishing to participate in public works to impose union monopoly bargaining on their current employees and hire new workers through union boss-controlled hiring halls.

Independent Workers Forced To Contribute to Big Labor-Manipulated Pension Funds

In practice, E.O.13502 is designed to force nonunion companies wishing to participate in public works using $25 million or more in federal funds to impose union monopoly bargaining on their employees and hire new workers through union boss-controlled hiring halls.

"To even submit a bid for a taxpayer-funded PLA contract," said Mr. Mix, "a union-free firm has to agree to use the union hiring hall to obtain workers at the expense of current qualified employees.

"Apprentices must be obtained through Big Labor-operated apprenticeship programs.

"Instead of following their normal guidelines for working safely and speedily, hardhats must submit to inefficient union work rules.

"Moreover, independent employees are routinely forced to contribute to union boss-controlled 'multiemployer' pension plans that are in many cases grossly underfunded.

"Even if the plans are sound, independent employees who contribute to them will never receive any benefits except in the extremely unlikely event they work long enough on unionized contracts to meet vesting requirements.

"And in states without Right to Work laws in effect, PLAs even force union nonmembers to join or pay union fees as a condition of employment!"

Since 2009, Grass-Roots Activists Have Pushed Back Against Abusive PLAs

Rather than compromise the freedom of their employees and the efficiency of their operations, most independent

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Congressional Action Needed

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construction firms simply refuse to submit bids on PLA projects.

Fortunately, over the past eight years taxpayers and other freedom-loving citizens have mounted a strong counterattack against the E.O.13502 power grab.

As of February 2009, just four states had prohibited union-only PLAs for any kind of taxpayer-funded construction projects.

But by the time this Newsletter reaches its readers, at least 23 states will have banned or sharply curtailed PLAs on state and local tax-funded public works.

"Along with other citizens' groups, National Right to Work successfully lobbied this year for the adoption of a PLA ban in Wisconsin," said Mr. Mix. "Iowa and Missouri may also curtail PLAs."

"These state laws are doing a lot of good.

"They are preventing Big Labor and its allied public officials from stacking the deck against union-free workers for contracts for state and local tax-funded buildings, from schools to sports stadiums.

"Taxpayers are also benefiting.

"Research by the nonpartisan, Boston-based Beacon Hill Institute shows that PLAs inflate construction costs by 12% to 18%."

Ongoing Seattle Tunnel PLA Fiasco Underscores Need For Federal Legislative Action

Unfortunately, although the rapid spread of state legislation rolling back monopolistic PLAs has mitigated the damage wrought by E.O.13502, this edict continues to do substantial harm to independent-minded hardhats and federal taxpayers.

Illustrative of the delays, cost overruns, poor safety records and featherbedding that routinely come with PLAs encouraged by E.O.13502 and acquiesced to by union-label state politicians is the ongoing Highway 99 tunnel mega-project underneath Seattle's downtown waterfront.

The union-impaired contractor Seattle Tunnel Partners (STP) won the bid to design and build the downtown tunnel. But work has proceeded only in fits and starts since drilling began in July 2013.

According to a March 2016 Associated Press report, the double-decker traffic tunnel "didn't move an inch" in 2015 until the year's "final days." In January 2016, the project was shut down again after "a sinkhole appeared in the tunnel."

Even as minimal progress was made on construction in 2015, workers continued to suffer severe injuries, resulting in an amputated foot, a fractured hand, and a fingertip "crushed so badly it had to be surgically removed . . . ."

"Unless and until elected officials in Washington, D.C., take action to halt PLA abuses, many federal construction contracts will continue to be awarded to firms because they have kowtowed to Big Labor, rather than because they have offered the best value for taxpayers," said Mr. Mix.

Rescission of E.O.13502 a Good First Step, But No Substitute For Legislation

President Donald Trump, who promised to Right to Work members during last year's campaign to oppose union-only PLAs, could even without Congress's help take a good first step by rescinding E.O.13502.

"Before Barack Obama issued this anti-free competition edict," recalled Mr. Mix, "nearly $150 billion worth of federal construction contracts were forged between 2001 and 2009 without PLA restrictions.

"This occurred thanks to two pro-independent hardhat executive orders issued at Right to Work advocates' behest by President George W. Bush.

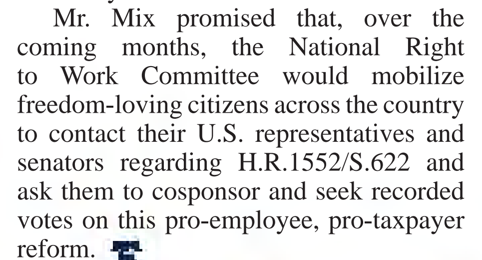
"Construction union kingpins and their lawyers tried to reassert control over federal public works by getting them judicially overturned.

"But Executive Orders 13202 and 13208 were successfully defended in court by the Bush Administration and a host of allies, including National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorneys.

"Of course, this victory was only temporary. With the arrival of forced-unionism promoter Barack Obama at the White House in early 2009, these executive orders were almost immediately scrubbed and replaced with the pro-PLA E.O.13502.

"To furnish union-free construction workers and their employers with federal public-works protections that can't be eviscerated in the future with the stroke of a presidential pen, adoption of the Fair and Open Competition Act is absolutely necessary."

Mr. Mix promised that, over the coming months, the National Right to Work Committee would mobilize freedom-loving citizens across the country to contact their U.S. representatives and senators regarding H.R.1552/S.622 and ask them to cosponsor and seek recorded votes on this pro-employee, pro-taxpayer reform.



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The Fair and Open Competition Act, introduced in the U.S. House by Dennis Ross (Fla.), would protect contractors and subcontractors from being required to impose a PLA on their employees in order to submit bids on taxpayer-funded construction.

Proposed DOL Cuts Are 'a Good Beginning'

Trump Administration Requests Rollback of Union Bosses' 'Welfare'

On the 2016 presidential campaign trail, Donald Trump frequently spoke about his plans to downsize federal programs that are of questionable utility and/or duplicative while eliminating those that are flat-out counterproductive.

And in mid-March, the Trump Administration, facing a sea of red ink, released an outline for the U.S. government's FY18 budget. It sends a modest, but clear signal Mr. Trump was serious about what he said on the stump about curtailing government waste.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen voiced support for the proposed trims in the taxpayer funding of pro-forced unionism bureaucracies such as the Department of Education (ED) and the Department of Labor (DOL).

Mr. Leen specifically cited the Trump team's recommended 21.5% cut in the DOL's $12.2 billion "discretionary" budget as a "good beginning."

However, Mr. Leen continued, lawmakers who want to stop propping up Big Labor's forced-dues empire with taxpayer dollars should be eager to go much further.

"The President's proposal, as encouraging as it is, cannot and does not touch the DOL's $33.5 billion 'mandatory' budget," pointed out Mr. Leen.

"Despite its misleading label, Congress has the authority to slash such DOL spending, and it should. An unknown, but undoubtedly large share of DOL 'mandatory' spending is ultimately funneled into pork-barrel projects that help Big Labor corral employees and job-seekers into unions."

Autoworkers Union Kingpins Paid Lavishly to 'Lecture' About 'Cultures of Safety'

Among the pro-union monopoly schemes in the DOL discretionary budget that the Trump proposal puts on the chopping block is the "Susan Harwood Training Grant Program," which in 2016 awarded $10.5 million in one-year grants to nonprofit organizations.

Recipients of this federal largesse included many labor unions and union-front organizations.

For example, thanks to the Harwood program, the United Autoworkers (UAW) union hierarchy received $148,500 in federal tax money last year alone to lecture workers about "cultures of safety in small- and medium-sized establishments."

Some Republicans like Tom Cole (Okla.) are suggesting it's impossible to cut wasteful federal programs that subsidize union-boss schemes to force employees to pay union dues. But Mr. Cole and his cohorts are wrong.

"A very large portion of the Harwood grants essentially fund Big Labor PR efforts with tax dollars with the obvious aim of facilitating union bosses' organizing drives," said Mr. Leen. "To say the least, this is not an appropriate use of federal taxpayers' money."

Chairman Tom Cole Predicts 'Dramatic' Consequences If Big Labor Pork Is Cut?!

"Unfortunately," Mr. Leen added, "efforts to eliminate or even reduce sharply DOL programs like the Harwood training grants and the Job Corps, which annually funnels millions and millions of dollars to carpenters, painters, electricians, and many other union bosses, will surely face resistance on Capitol Hill."

Mr. Leen warned the resistance would come not just from union-label Democrat politicians who reflexively side with Big Labor on controversial issues, but also from powerful members of Washington, D.C.'s GOP.

For example, in early March, before the White House's proposed DOL discretionary budget cuts were even made public, Congressman Tom Cole, the chairman of the House Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, was pouring cold water on the idea that significant cuts in the DOL budget could be made.

"[P]eople need to understand there will be consequences that will be very dramatic . . . if indeed we try to start shutting down Job Corps centers . . . ," Mr. Cole told a Bloomberg BNA reporter.

Time For Grass-Roots Activists to Intensify Pressure on Congress

"Any politician who claims there is nothing to cut in the DOL budget is wrong," retorted Mr. Leen.

"Ordinary Americans outside the D.C. Beltway, as well as scholars who have investigated the track records of DOL boondoggles, like the $1.7 billion Job Corps, recognize that they are remarkably ineffective at accomplishing their purported aim of helping employment seekers and employees.

"And the tax money that's being poured into the Jobs Corps isn't merely being wasted. It's often actually steering people away from genuine employment opportunities by subsidizing Big Labor forced-unionism schemes."

Mr. Leen vowed that, over the coming weeks and months, the Committee would mobilize members and supporters across America to contact their U.S. representatives and senators regarding the issue of taxpayer subsidies for compulsory unionism.

"It is an uphill battle, but we can win," he predicted, "if we keep raising the pressure on congressional leaders to pass an FY18 budget that greatly curtails the misuse of tax dollars by bureaucrats and union bosses to corral workers into unions."

Big Labor Illinois Solons Nix Privacy Rights

Union Dons Authorized to Download Workers' Personal Information

Employers' personnel files hold lots of private information about employees, including their Social Security numbers and those of their next of kin.

If identity thieves gain access to employees' names along with their personal information, they can use what they've stolen to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards, and create false work documents.

Consequently, employers across the country are legally required to maintain the confidentiality of employee Social Security numbers.

Employers who do not take care to restrict access to employee personnel files to parties who have legitimate reasons to require it, such as the employees themselves, their managers, and HR personnel, may face substantial fines and other penalties.

Union Nonmembers' Names, Social Security Numbers Are Provided to Big Labor Bosses

Unfortunately, federal statutes and judicial precedents make a special privacy-law exception for union bosses who want access to private-sector or federal government employees' personal information.

Union officials may, therefore, wield their monopoly-bargaining privileges to obtain and preserve in their files the names and Social Security numbers of union members and nonmembers alike.

Many states, including Illinois, similarly make a special privacy-law exception regarding the personal information of state and local public servants, including teachers.

In the Prairie State, union officials who have been granted "exclusive" negotiating power may legally insist that the employer hand over the personal information of all of the employees under their control.

Employees who have not joined the union, and would never do so voluntarily, have no recognized right to object.

Moreover, union bosses such as the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) bigwigs who wield monopoly power over Illinois childcare providers and personal assistants have actually cut deals to obtain members' and nonmembers' Social Security numbers from the government.

Plainfield Lawmaker's Bid To Protect Citizens' Privacy Was Unceremoniously Quashed

Early this year, GOP Rep. Mark Batinick, a state lawmaker who hails from the Village of Plainfield in northeastern Illinois, introduced H.B.660, a pro-employee privacy reform.

This measure would simply have prohibited Illinois public employers from providing union bosses with an employee's Social Security number without first getting his or her permission.

But on February 23, H.B.660 was defeated in the House Labor & Commerce Committee.

Union-label Chairman Jay Hoffman (D-Belleville) and 14 other Democrat members of the panel voted against sending this measure to the chamber floor. (See the chart below for a list of all of the Big Labor politicians who voted against H.B.660.)

"Apparently, for Big Labor politicians like Jay Hoffman, perpetuating and expanding union bosses' legal power over employees is more important than safeguarding those employees' privacy rights!" commented Mary King, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Over the Years, Union Dons Have Repeatedly Misused Workers' Personal Information

Ms. King added that the danger union bosses could misuse employee private records they have no legitimate need to see is not merely theoretical.

"Over the years, union officials in state after state have again and again used workers' personal information for nefarious purposes. And they have often gotten away with it without suffering any serious penalty," she explained.

In the fall of 2007, for example, John Glenn, president of Local 3602 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) union, maliciously posted the names and Social Security numbers of 33 AT&T Bell South employees on a publicly accessible bulletin board at the company's facility in Burlington, N.C.

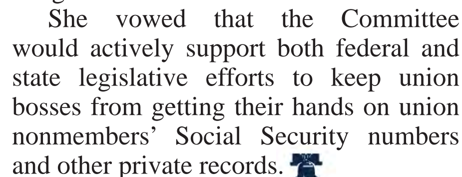
All of the employees, whose names and personal information were posted in a hallway close to the building entrance, accessible to employees and nonemployees, had exercised their freedom under North Carolina's Right to Work law to resign from the CWA and cease paying dues or fees to a union they didn't want.

In June 2008, 16 of the employees whose rights under North Carolina's Identity Theft Protection Act (ITPA) were brazenly violated filed a state suit against Mr. Glenn and other CWA union officials.

But incredibly, both the trial court and the state Court of Appeals found that, since Mr. Glenn's obvious goal was to retaliate against employees for exercising their legal right to refrain from union membership, he is entitled to a special exemption from being subjected to the ITPA's penalties!

"Workers who wish to remain union-free have ample reason to believe Big Labor can't be trusted with access to their personal information," concluded Ms. King.

She vowed that the Committee would actively support both federal and state legislative efforts to keep union bosses from getting their hands on union nonmembers' Social Security numbers and other private records.



Illinois House Labor Committee Members Voting Against Employee Privacy

Linda Chapa LaVia (D-Aurora)	Robert Martwick (D-Chicago)
Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago)	Rita Mayfield (D-Waukegan)
John C. D'Amico (D-Chicago)	Anna Moeller (D-Elgin)
Jay Hoffman (D-Bellleville)*	Silvana Tabares (D-Chicago)
Frances A. Hurley (D-Chicago)	Lawrence Walsh, Jr. (D-Joliet)
Thaddeus Jones (D-Calumet City)	Emanuel Chris Welch (D-Westchester)
Stephanie A. Kifowit (D-Aurora)	Ann M. Williams (D-Chicago)
Theresa Mah (D-Chicago)	* Chairman

On February 23, the 15 politicians listed here opposed H.B.660, a measure that would simply have prohibited public employers from providing union bosses with an employee's Social Security number without first getting his or her permission.

‘More Energetic’ Teachers Thrown Under the Bus

‘You Had No Reason to Expect’ Union Officials ‘Would Betray You’

Today more than 30 states have laws on the books empowering government union bosses to speak for all public servants who choose not to join their organizations, as well as those who do, in discussions with the employer regarding pay, benefits, and work rules.

Big Labor insists that corralling workers who don’t belong to a union, and don’t want to, under union monopoly bargaining is “for their own good.”

But this is often obviously untrue, as a recent commentary for the Orange County (Calif.) *Register* by Steven Greenhut of the R Street Institute demonstrated.

If Pink-Slipped Educators Are Terminated, It Won’t Be Because They’re Bad Teachers

In early March, Mr. Greenhut informed his readers, the school board of the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) in Orange County had voted, 4-1, to send out pink slips to 287 teachers and other education employees, warning them they may potentially be laid off at the end of the academic year.

The SAUSD is short of funds in part because its enrollment is falling.

Nevertheless, the district undoubtedly could have sent out far fewer pink slips, and perhaps none at all, had it not acquiesced in 2015 to union bosses’ demands for a salary increase that now costs already over-burdened taxpayers $32 million annually.

Moreover, the potential harm to schoolchildren and their parents resulting from layoffs is greatly magnified because, under contract terms upon which union kingpins have always insisted, the layoffs must adhere to “Last in, first out” (LIFO) rules.

That is, the teachers with the least seniority will get laid off first, even if their job performance is outstanding and/or their expertise is in subject areas which an insufficient number of district employees are qualified to teach.

‘You Had Every Reason to Expect That Our School Board Would Protect You’

In short, unless Big Labor California Gov. Jerry Brown finds extra state tax dollars to divert to Santa Ana, union bosses are prepared, in Mr. Greenhut’s words, “to throw . . . younger, more energetic and lower-paid” teachers “under the bus.”

Steven Greenhut: “It’s no secret” that union bosses put longtime workers’ interests above those of “newbies.”

Cecilia “Ceci” Iglesias, the only SAUSD board member to vote against both the unfunded 2015 pay hike and this year’s pink slips, has publicly commiserated with the many teachers who may be terminated “only because they’re new”:

“You had no reason to expect” officials of “your own union would betray you. But they did. And you had every reason to expect that our school board would protect you” from union officials’ “destructive” agenda. But “they didn’t.”

Because the monopoly-bargaining system routinely fails to defend the interests of the most recently hired educators, schoolchildren, parents, and taxpayers, wrote Mr. Greenhut, older teachers “will keep their raises, while the young ones get laid off first.”

“It’s no secret,” he concluded, that union bosses put longtime workers’ interests above those of “newbies.”

Educators Forced to Bankroll The Very Union Bigwigs Who Undercut Their Job Security

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Greg Mourad observed that what’s happening in Santa Ana is no anomaly:

“The scenario now unfolding in Santa Ana occurs countless times in state after state in the late winter and spring of every year in unionized K-12 school districts with budget problems due to declining enrollments and/or other reasons.

“It happens largely because Big Labor insists that mere seniority suffices for a teacher to be given preference over more successful, new teachers.

“And in California and roughly a dozen-and-a-half other states that authorize compulsory union dues and fees in the government sector, educators who have less job security as a consequence of union monopoly bargaining actually have to bankroll the Big Labor bosses who block all attempts to roll back LIFO rules.

“Largely because of government union chiefs’ monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges, the California public education system has over the course of the past 40 years become an expensive shambles.

“Elimination of these special privileges is essential for meaningful reform of the system.”

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Big Labor Pension Fund Implosion a 'Harbinger'

New York Teamster Retirees 'on the Edge of Financial Disaster'

As a consequence of the February insolvency of the Hempstead, N.Y.-based pension fund of Local 707 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the full promised benefits for roughly 4000 current retirees have plummeted.

Payments for retirees and beneficiaries previously averaging $1313 a month are now down to just $570 a month.

And more than one million participants in other insolvent, Big Labor-operated "multiemployer" pension plans could face even steeper cuts in their retirement benefits over the next few years, according to W. Thomas Reeder, the director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

As Mr. Reeder explained in March to Hazel Bradford of the publication *Pensions & Investments*, the "707 is the harbinger of what is to come."

'It Will Come Down to Pennies On the Dollar, and Nobody Wants to See That Happen'

"It's not the same order of magnitude of those plans that will be coming in," Mr. Reeder continued. "It will come down to pennies on the dollar, and nobody wants to see that happen."

It's not hard to see that multiemployer pension funds, which are typically overseen by Teamster, building trades, retail, or mining union bosses and their designates, are on the road to "catastrophe," as Ms. Bradford put it.

Collectively, according to PBGC officials, they now have $60 billion in liabilities, but just $2 billion in assets. That means they are only 3% funded.

Union-Free Trucking Jobs Level Since 1995-96, Even as Unionized Jobs Fell by 64%

Over the next eight to 10 years, the cost of furnishing reduced benefits to retired members of failed Big Labor multiemployer plans is expected to rise so dramatically that the PBGC itself, which Congress set up in 1974 to limit the damage wrought by pension failures, is likely to go broke.

Why are so many union boss-dominated multiemployer pension plans in terrible shape? One key reason is that Big Labor-impaired firms have for decades been unable to compete effectively with their union-free counterparts. Virtually all of this competition has occurred, of course, inside the domestic market.

Take, for example, the trucking sector in which Teamster-controlled companies were once dominant.

From 1995-96 to 2015, according to data collected and published by the Bureau of National Affairs, nationwide union-free trucking industry employment held virtually steady at roughly 1.4 million. Meanwhile, the number of unionized trucking jobs plummeted by 64%, from more than 440,000 in 1995-96 to roughly 160,000 in 2015.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix commented:

"Because so many Teamster-controlled businesses have gone broke or shrunk dramatically, employer contributions to Teamster retiree funds have also fallen."

He added that a second reason Teamster and other Big Labor-dominated plans are frequently underfunded is that union officials never even try to get a sufficiently high share of employees' compensation packages set aside for pensions to make the promised benefits a reality.

'Everyone Told Us, "Don't Worry, You Have a Union Job, Your Pension Is Guaranteed"'

In a February 26 New York *Daily News* article, reporter Ginger Adams Otis examined the human impact of the Local 707 pension fund fiasco.

She quoted 71-year-old ex-trucker Tim Chmil, who told her: "I had a union job for 30 years. We had collectively bargained contracts that promised us a pension. I paid into it with every paycheck. Everyone told us, 'Don't worry, you have a union job, your pension is guaranteed.' Well, so much for that."

Mr. Mix observed: "Countless unionized employees like Tim Chmil were forced throughout their careers to pay dues to Big Labor bosses to keep their jobs, whether they wanted to or not.

"And one of the handful of tasks that Teamster, iron workers, plumbers, and other union bosses are supposed to accomplish in exchange for the vast sums of conscripted money they take in is to ensure that the pensions workers are promised are there when workers need them.

"Now, as Ginger Adams Otis has shown, thousands of retired New York Teamsters are 'on the edge of financial disaster,' trying to figure out how they will get by on dramatically reduced pensions.

"As her reporting confirms, union bigwigs and their handpicked agents have failed again and again to fulfill their pension obligations toward employees.

"This is another distressing illustration of just how little union bosses deserve their forced-dues privileges."

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix: Union bigwigs' recurrent failure to fulfill their pension obligations toward employees is "another distressing illustration of just how little" they deserve their "forced-dues privileges."

Forced Unionism Immoral

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efforts to pass Right to Work legislation in the 22 remaining forced-unionism states are being assisted by regional groups such as the Keystone State Right to Work Committee and Mid-America Right to Work.

This spring and summer, these two groups will be helping the National Committee to mobilize Pennsylvanians and Ohioans to contact their legislators with postcards, petitions, letters, and phone calls, urging them to support and seek roll-call votes on pending forced-dues repeal legislation.

Lobbying efforts to get legislators on the record regarding Right to Work protections for employees are also gaining momentum in Minnesota, Delaware and Maine.

Even in Big Labor Stronghold States, Citizens 'Eventually Get Fed Up'

In state after state, there is a growing recognition among elected officials that perpetuating the forced-unionism status quo will routinely result in substandard economic performance.

"States like Pennsylvania and Ohio have long had reputations as Big Labor strongholds," commented Mr. Mix. "Indeed, union bosses remain very powerful in Harrisburg and Columbus, largely because of their government-backed domination of public-sector employment.

"However, when a state's employment and compensation growth lag far behind the national average year after year, even as the national average itself remains quite unimpressive, then its citizens eventually get fed up.

"Once a critical mass of ordinary people become determined to change the way their state operates, union special interests can't stop them, as we have seen in recent years in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, and in Kentucky and Missouri this year."

Laws' 'Fundamental Purpose Is to Protect the Employee's Personal Freedom of Choice'

"As we head into the middle of 2017," Mr. Mix continued, "the pressure on state politicians is mounting.

"That's true not just in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Delaware and Maine, but also in Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, New Hampshire, Vermont and elsewhere."

Mr. Mix added that, as impressive as Right to Work states' relative job and income growth have been, the primary motivation for supporters of state efforts to pass additional bans on forced union dues is to do what is fair and just.

"The Right to Work is a matter of morality as well as economics," he said.

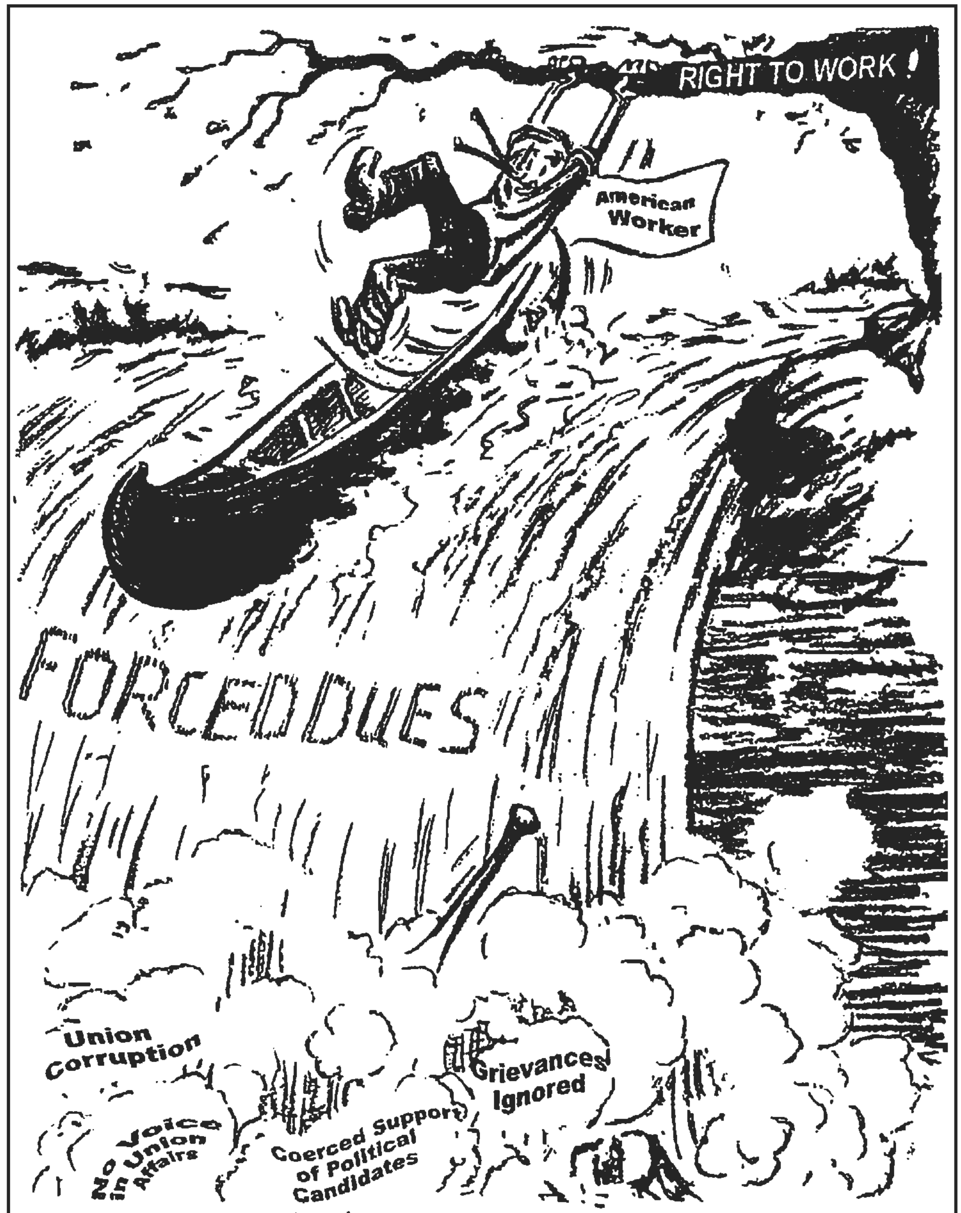
"Right to Work laws' fundamental purpose is to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice.

"Commitment to principle helps explain why so many National Committee members who live in a state that already has a Right to Work law are eager to offer their assistance to efforts to pass such laws in the remaining 22 forced-unionism states.

"No American should be forced to join or bankroll a union as a condition of employment.

"In order to realize this goal, the Committee continues to work for passage of national Right to Work legislation [H.R.785 and S.545] repealing all federal labor law provisions that authorize forced union dues and fees.

"Effectively, that would make all 50 states Right to Work states for private-sector employees."



Today, employees in a majority of states can rely on Right to Work laws to protect themselves against unscrupulous union bosses. But Committee members won't be satisfied until all American employees enjoy Right to Work protections.

Right to Work Holds 2:1 Job-Growth Advantage

Compulsory Unionism Linked to Substandard Economic Performance

U.S. Department of Labor data accessible on the DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics website show that the number of civilian household jobs (a broad measure that includes the self-employed and contractors as well as workers on employer payrolls) grew by just 4.9% from 2006 to 2016.

But some states fared far better than others.

The 22 states that had already had Right to Work laws on the books back in 2006 enjoyed overall household employment growth of 8.1% over the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, aggregate employment in the 24 states that still lacked Right to Work protections for employees as of the end of last year grew by just 3.5%, or less than half the Right to Work average.

(The four states that switched from forced-unionism to Right to Work between 2012 and 2016 are excluded from this analysis and what follows. Kentucky and Missouri, whose Right to Work laws were adopted this year, are counted as forced-unionism states here.)

In recent years, gubernatorial candidates like Matt Bevin (Ky., left) and now-Vice President Mike Pence (Ind.) have campaigned successfully on the Right to Work issue. They have shown standing up to Big Labor is politically smart.

In 2015, Right to Work States' Compensation Advantage Was Roughly $1600

Eight states suffered employment losses of at least 0.5% from 2006 to 2016. Of these, seven are non-Right to Work states. Meanwhile, all of the top four states for 10-year employment growth are Right to Work states.

In addition to being correlated with faster job growth, Right to Work laws are correlated with higher real compensation per private-sector employee.

U.S. Commerce Department data, adjusted for interstate differences in cost-of-living according to an index calculated by the Missouri and Economic Research Information Center (MERIC), a state government agency, show that average compensation per private-sector employee in Right to Work states in 2015 was $46,057.

That's $1582 higher than the average for forced-unionism states.

The combined Commerce Department and MERIC data also show that the Right to Work employee compensation advantage has greatly widened over the course of the past few years.

In 2010, for example, when 22 states had bans on forced unionism in the books, the average cost-of-living-adjusted compensation per Right to Work state employee was $110 higher than the average for states permitting the termination of employees for refusal to bankroll Big Labor.

Since Early 2012, Six States Have Adopted Right to Work Measures

"The ample evidence indicating that forced unionism results in diminished growth in jobs and smaller compensation gains for employees is one reason prompting more and more Americans to get involved in efforts to pass Right to Work laws in their states," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

Mr. Mix added that, thanks to intensified local grass-roots activism as well as persistent, effective mobilization efforts by Committee staffers and members, just since January 2012 the total number of Right to Work states has risen from 22 to 28.

But despite lopsided public support for Right to Work laws, which has been confirmed by well over half a century of scientific polling, and despite all the evidence of their economic benefits, passing a state prohibition on forced union dues normally requires a long and difficult fight.

It's not hard to understand why.

Drawing on disclosure forms private-sector union officials are required to file with the federal government as well as other sources, the National Institute for Labor Relations Research has estimated that Big Labor rakes in a total of roughly $14 billion a year in mostly compulsory dues, fees and assessments.

And union bosses deploy a large share of that money for politics and lobbying.

Keystone and Buckeye States Represent Right To Work Opportunities

Enacting a Right to Work law requires persuading elected officials that, despite the ample resources available to the union political machine, it is in their best interest to stand up to it.

Currently, freedom-loving citizens'

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