New Members of Congress Boost S.370, H.R.500

Latest Economic Data Reconfirm Bills Would Foster Job Creation

Just a few weeks have passed since Mississippi Republican Trent Lott introduced S.370, the National Right to Work Act of 2005, in the U.S. Senate.

But four of the nine members who were elected to the Senate for the first time in 2004 are already cosponsors of S.370.

Heeding the requests of National Right to Work Committee members and other freedom-loving constituents, on February 14 newly elected Sens. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) and John Thune (R-S.D.) became original cosponsors of S.370.

Two other members of the Senate "Class of 2004," David Vitter (R-La.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.), have since honored the wishes of pro-Right to Work citizens by signing on to the bill.

Yet another three of the nine new senators, Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) and Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), pledged to cosponsor national Right to Work legislation during last year's campaign. Right to Work officers are now actively lobbying to get these senators on board as well.

Six Freshmen Members Cosponsor House Measure

A total of 16 senators are now S.370 sponsors.

In the House of Representatives, 59 congressmen and women, including six freshmen, are sponsors of H.R.500, companion national Right to Work legislation introduced by South Carolina Republican Joe Wilson.

S.370 and H.R.500 would not add a single word to federal law.

They would simply repeal all federal labor-law provisions under which workers may currently be terminated unless they fork over dues to union officials whom federal bureaucrats have certified as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agents.

President Bush and the leaders of both chambers of Congress are all on the record in favor of such legislation.

And federal data measuring the economic performance of the 22 states that already protect the employee's Right to Work regardless of union affiliation or nonaffiliation strongly indicate that enacting S.370 or H.R.500 would help the national economy.

Between 1993 and 2003, for example, private-sector, non-farm job growth in Right to Work states was nearly double job growth in non-Right to Work states, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor statistics.

Right to Work Advantage Even Greater as Nation Recovers From Recession

And Right to Work states' advantage is even greater during rocky economic periods.

Between January 2003 and January 2005, while the nation as a whole struggled to recover the jobs lost during the 2001 recession, Right to Work states' revival was much more swift.

Over the two-year period, private-sector, non-farm jobs increased by 2.9% in Right to Work states, compared to just 1.2% in forced-unionism states.

Furthermore, average household incomes are significantly higher in Right to Work states than in forced-unionism states, once differences in living costs are accounted for.

In a recent study -- available at www.nilrr.org -- University of Colorado economist Barry Poulson, a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association, found that the average cost of living-adjusted household income in Right to Work state metropolitan areas in 2002 was $50,571, nearly $4300 higher than the average in forced-unionism state metro areas.

Dr. James Bennett of George Mason University's Nobel Prize-winning Economics Department reached a similar conclusion in a 2000 study: "Families in Right to Work states are economically better off than [families] in forced-unionism states."

"The record indicates S.370 and H.R.500 would foster job creation and raise incomes as well as protect individual freedom," said Right to Work President Mark Mix.

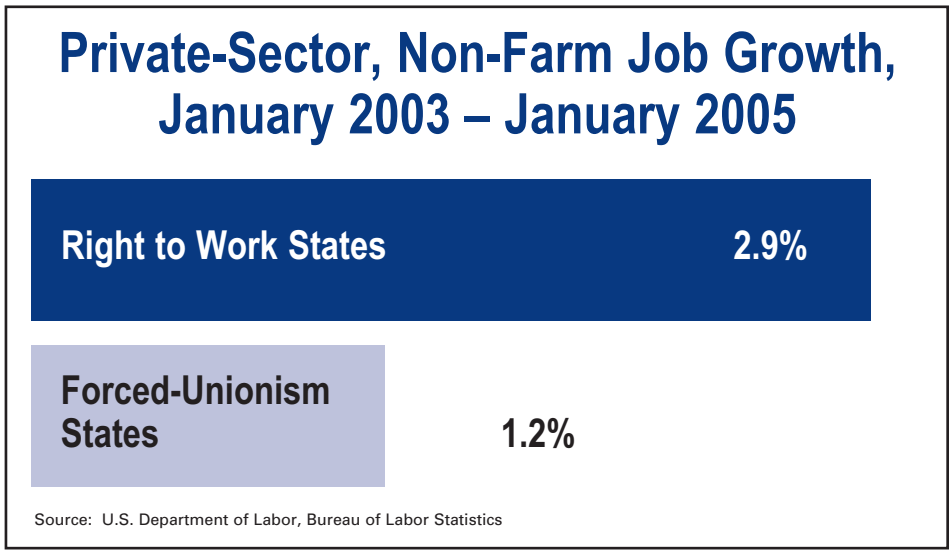
Committee Lobbies For Recorded Votes on Both Bills

"In fact, no other action Congress is likely to take this year would have such a positive impact on the national economy. That's one reason why the Committee is mobilizing its members across America to push for recorded votes on Right to Work," Mr. Mix continued.

"Moreover, if Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] and House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] bring up Right to Work for votes this year, the result will be positive, even if Big Labor politicians band together to kill the legislation.

"Citizens across the country will get a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which are willing to keep job growth sluggish just to please union lobbyists.

"And that will pave the way for many Right to Work electoral victories in 2006 and beyond."



While the nation as a whole struggled to recover the jobs lost during the 2001 recession, employment grew over 100% faster in Right to Work states than it did in forced-unionism states.