

Committee Protects Nevada's Right to Work Law

Right to Work Supporters Bust Up Big Labor's Carson City Con Job

Smooth-talking union lobbyists recently came dangerously close to eviscerating Nevada's 54-year-old Right to Work law, but the National Right to Work Committee and its members thwarted Big Labor's scheme at the last minute.

On April 26, the Nevada state Assembly voted with virtually no notice to approve A.B.69, a camouflaged attack on the Silver State's Right to Work statute, which prohibits the firing of workers for refusal to pay dues or "fees" to an unwanted union.

In its original form, A.B.69, sponsored by Big Labor lackey Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto (D-Las Vegas), would have flat-out repealed the Right to Work law and reinstated forced unionism.

But by the time A.B.69 reached the Assembly floor, it had been cleverly disguised. Union-label proponents suggested the amended bill would hardly do anything at all, but were at the same time disturbingly eager to pass it.

Phony 'Remedy' Would Have Made Monopoly-Bargaining Regime Even More Unjust

The amended A.B.69 was a counterfeit "remedy" for the federal labor-law provisions that force private-sector employees in Nevada and every other state to accept union officials as their "exclusive" bargaining agents in contract negotiations and grievance procedures.

Under federal law, employees who choose not to join a union can take money out of their own pockets to pay for a nonunion lawyer to prepare them to argue their grievance -- then see their settlement junked because it doesn't conform to the union contract!

A.B.69 as amended would have compounded this injustice by forcing any union nonmember who, realizing he or she has no real choice, instead follows union-created grievance procedures to pay forced fees to the union.

Big Labor would have been entitled to sue workers who refused to pay for so-called grievance "services" that they were effectively forced to accept.

Apparently duped by union lobbyists who had told them A.B.69 would not undermine Nevada's Right to Work law, even normally anti-forced unionism



By testifying before the Nevada state Senate May 17, Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad helped

thwart union lobbyists' recent back-door attack on the Silver State's Right to Work law.

legislators joined with the Big Labor Assembly majority to rubber-stamp it.

But then National Right to Work Committee members and supporters across Nevada sprang into action.

Alerted by the National Committee, pro-Right to Work Nevadans quickly began flooding state Senate offices with postcards and phone messages calling for the defeat of A.B.69.

Committee Officer, Members Helped Nevada Politicians Get Their Bearings

At the same time, Committee Director of Legislation Greg Mourad led a team of Right to Work staffers on a Nevada lobbying blitz to ensure that every state senator knew what was at stake.

Mr. Mourad met personally with well over half of the 21 Nevada state senators in Carson City, the state's capital.

He also testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, forcefully refuting union lobbyists' attempts to whitewash their scheme.

"Big Labor lobbyists relied on the blatant misrepresentation that union nonmembers 'choose' to use the union-controlled grievance process. This was their excuse to force nonmembers to pay 'fees' that are potentially even higher than

union membership dues," explained Mr. Mourad.

"But the fact is, federal law prohibits union nonmembers from seeking representation in a grievance by anyone other than a union monopoly-bargaining agent.

"A union nonmember is not even permitted to hire [an independent] lawyer to represent him until after the union-controlled grievance process has been exhausted."

After Right to Work members and supporters made it clear they were on the alert and Mr. Mourad revealed the true nature of the amended A.B.69, the bill couldn't survive.

Feeling intense heat, the Commerce and Labor Committee let it pass the May 20 deadline for legislative action without bringing it up for a vote. Consequently, A.B.69 is now dead.

"This is another important victory for the Right to Work cause," concluded Mr. Mourad.

"As long as federal labor law continues to tilt the scales in favor of union monopoly, Right to Work states should continue providing nonmembers with the greatest possible protection under state law.

"Nevadans' Right to Work shouldn't be tampered with." 