

Emerging House Leader Favors H.R.500 Roll Call

Rising Political Star Mike Pence 'Optimistic' Vote Will Happen

Complimenting National Right to Work Committee members and supporters for their dedication and effectiveness in lobbying the U.S. Congress, Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) says he is "optimistic" that the House and Senate will vote on national Right to Work legislation before November 2006.

Mr. Pence recently attended a banquet held in Arlington, Va., to honor the half-century of service to the Right to Work movement bestowed by Reed Larson, the Committee's leader from 1959 until 2003, and his wife Jeanne.

The congressman presented Mr. Larson with the Committee's 2005 Everett M. Dirksen award.

Congressman Points to Growing Capitol Hill Support For Right to Work

"If it weren't for Reed and the Committee, there would be no state Right to Work laws and countless more American workers would be under compulsory unionism," says Mr. Pence.

"But thanks to the Committee, today there are 22 state Right to Work laws.

"And Capitol Hill support for the National Right to Work Act, which

would remove the provisions in federal labor law that authorize forced union dues and 'fees' in all 50 states, is growing steadily.

"The President, the House speaker, and the Senate majority leader are all on the record in favor of the Right to Work Bill. And a majority of members of the House Education & Workforce Committee also support this bill.

"I am optimistic both the House and the Senate will vote on it before the next elections."

Mr. Pence Is Chairman Of the Largest Caucus Group in His Chamber

This winter Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) introduced separate versions of the National Right to Work Act (H.R.500 and S.370, respectively) in the two chambers of Congress. The Right to Work measure now has 101 House and Senate sponsors.

Mike Pence's hopefulness regarding the prospects for a recorded floor vote on H.R.500 is especially heartening for Right to Work supporters because he is an emerging and influential House leader.

He is the elected chairman of the pro-free market House Republican Study Committee (RSC).

With over 100 members, the RSC is larger than any other caucus group (a faction of legislators who regularly meet and identify themselves as a bloc based on a common ideological or other interest) in the House.

Mr. Pence was even described recently as a "contender for speaker" once current Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) retires by *The Hill*, a newspaper covering Congress that is widely read by Capitol Hill insiders.

"Mike Pence's House colleagues recognize that he is politically savvy and solidly principled," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"And that's why, by predicting the Right to Work Bill will be voted on, he is actually improving the odds that it will happen."

Freedom Lovers 'Have a Right to Know Where Their Politicians Stand'

"Poll after poll shows that nearly four out of five citizens who regularly vote in federal elections support the Right to Work principle," continued Mr. Mix.

"Freedom loving Americans have a right to know where their politicians stand on this issue.


"That alone should be sufficient reason for Congress to hold floor votes on H.R.500 and S.370, even if it turns out that Big Labor politicians band together to kill these bills.

"But that's not all.

"History shows that, when politicians brush aside the views of the vast majority of their constituents by voting against Right to Work, they often pay the price at the ballot box the next time they run for reelection.

"Therefore, any Big Labor 'victory' in a floor showdown over the Right to Work Bill will prove to be a costly one.

"Before too long, roll calls will lead to enactment of a national Right to Work law and abolition of compulsory union dues."

Mr. Mix urged Right to Work members nationwide to call Mr. Pence's office at 202-225-3021 and thank him for pushing for a roll-call floor vote on H.R.500. 



"I am optimistic both the House and the Senate will vote" on Right to Work measures before the November 2006

elections, says Rep. Mike Pence, chairman of the House Republican Study Committee.