



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 7

www.nrtwc.org

July 2005

Across Nation, Right to Work Is 'on the March' New 'Matching Grant Challenge' Issued to Boost Vital Programs

As they look back on the first half of 2005, National Right to Work Committee members and supporters have many reasons to be encouraged.

In just six months, more pro-Right to Work measures have been introduced in the current Congress than in any previous Congress in memory.

Several of these bills are rapidly gaining cosponsors and have good prospects for receiving congressional action.

National Right to Work Legislation Crown Jewel Of True Labor Law Reform

Pending U.S. House and Senate legislation that would roll back federally-imposed compulsory unionism includes:

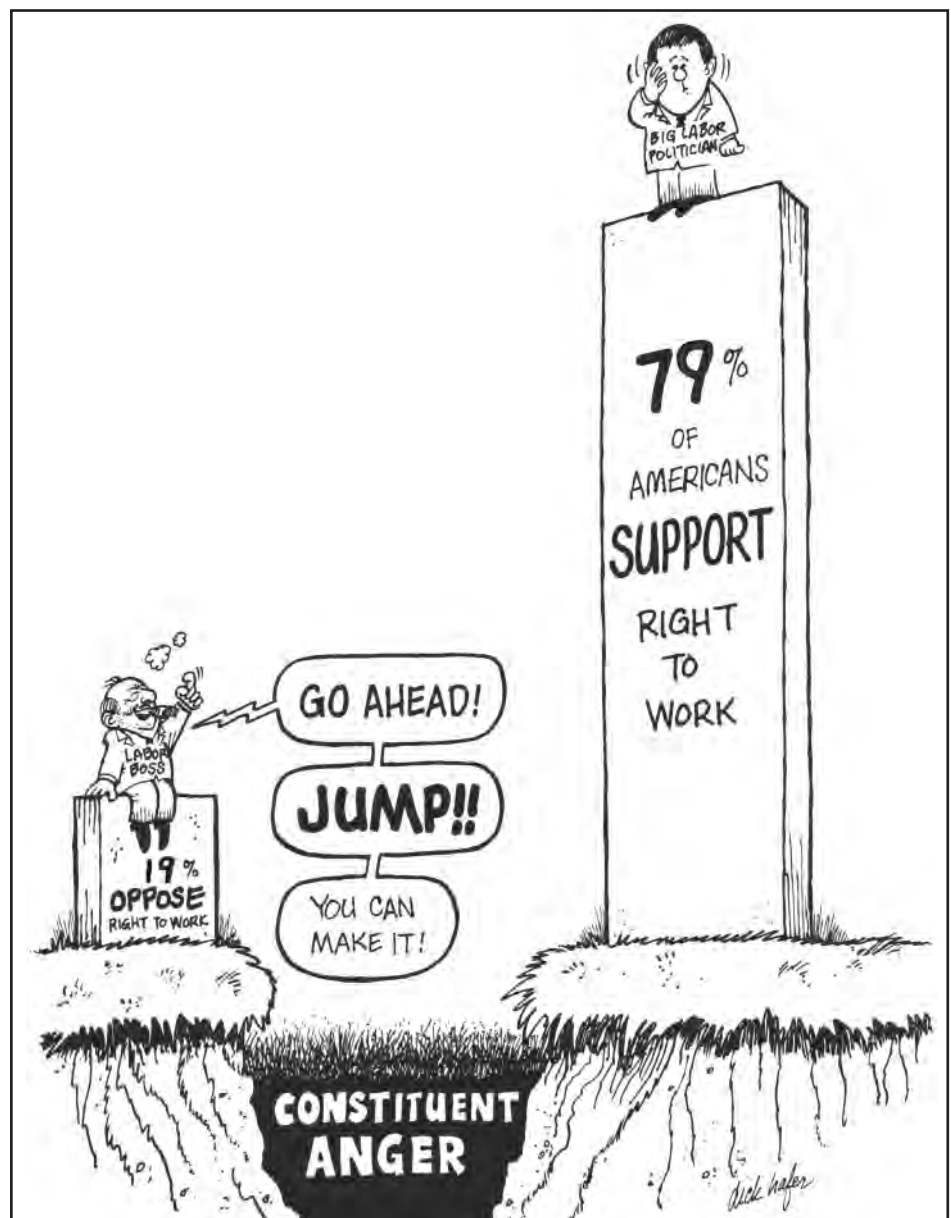
* * The Truth in Employment Act (H.R.1816 and S.983). It would sharply curtail "salting," a tactic commonly used by construction union officials to punish employers who refuse to foist an unwanted union on their loyal employees.

The salting bill, which now has 28 House and Senate sponsors, was the subject of a June 21 hearing before a House Small Business subcommittee. (For details, see page five.)

* * "Card Check" Repeal (H.R.874 and S.1173). It would bar union bosses and (typically intimidated) employers from cutting deals to impose forced unionism on employees through so-called "card checks."

While "card check" repeal would not eliminate the evils of compulsory union representation and dues, it would ban one especially abusive method through which they are currently instituted in the workplace.

See 'Special Sponsor' next page



Because Americans who vote in federal elections overwhelmingly support the Right to Work principle, even many

union-label politicians wouldn't find it easy to vote against national Right to Work legislation.

Will You Be a 'Special Sponsor'?

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* * Public-Works Employee Freedom legislation (H.R.1248 and H.R.1449). It would codify President George W. Bush's 2001 executive order tightly restricting so-called "project labor agreements" (PLA's) in federally funded public works.

PLA's force construction firm owners who wish to bid on public-works projects, whether they are unionized or union-free, to impose restrictive union work rules on employees.

* * The Freedom from Union Violence Act (H.R.239 and S.618). It would close the special-interest loophole in federal anti-extortion law that exempts from prosecution extortionate violence and threats aimed at securing so-called "legitimate" union goals.

This legislation would thus hold union officials who plan, commit, or foment extortionate violence against a company's employees to the same standard as business rivals, gangsters, or anyone else who does the same.

Committee officers are in an ongoing dialogue with Judiciary Committee staff over scheduling hearings on this measure.

* * The National Right to Work Act (H.R.500 and S.370). It would repeal all provisions in federal labor law that now authorize forced union dues and fees, prohibiting the firing of employees for refusal to bankroll an unwanted union.

The Right to Work Bill, which now has 107 House and Senate sponsors, is the crown jewel of federal labor law reform.

Securing recorded votes on this legislation is the Committee's top objective over the next year and a half.

As Committee President Mark Mix pointed out in a letter posted July 8 to thousands of Committee members nationwide, lobbying programs designed to put Congress on the record on the Right to Work Bill as well as more modest labor-law reforms are key to the movement's long-term success.

'You and I Have Never Had a Better Opportunity'

"If the American people are alerted to what's at stake -- and if new Right to Work supporters and longtime activists can all be mobilized -- then, ultimately, the politicians will have to vote for Right to Work or face angry constituents come the next election," Mr. Mix explained.

But despite the fact that both House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) publicly support the Right to Work Bill and other Committee objectives, "convincing Congress to take action on anything is never easy."

To help ensure the Committee lobbying efforts to obtain roll-call votes on its legislative objectives are well-funded and successful, several dedicated Right to Work supporters have instituted a new "Matching Grant Challenge."

For the next few months, this group

will match all new members' contributions to the Committee, dollar for dollar.

"You and I have never had a better opportunity to act on a National Right to Work Bill to end forced unionism -- so you and I must not pull back now," wrote Mr. Mix in his July 8 letter, which announced this Matching Grant Challenge and urged current members to participate by becoming "special sponsors."

The new Matching Grant Challenge is a boon for the Committee's pro-Right to Work lobbying program.

It encourages prospective Committee members to join now, while the Committee still has time to build momentum for recorded votes on its top federal legislative objectives before the November 2006 congressional elections.

Meanwhile, by taking the Matching Grant Challenge, new members can ensure that the Committee retains sufficient funds to fight effectively for the Right to Work at the state level as well.

Big Labor Politicians Would Have to Consider 'Daschle Precedent'

"Across America, the Right to Work cause is on the march," said Mr. Mix.

"If our efforts to get pro-Right to Work legislation brought up for House and Senate floor votes are successful, even many Big Labor politicians will have to weigh the possible consequences carefully before they vote 'No.'"

"Just last spring, a nationwide survey of regular voters by veteran, nonpartisan pollster Del Ali found that they support the Right to Work principle by an overwhelming 79% to 19% margin.

"And last November then-Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's [D-S.D.] long record of casting anti-Right to Work votes played a significant role in his failure to win reelection.

"Union-label politicians, especially those who represent Right to Work states, will have to consider the 'Daschle precedent' if Congress votes on the Right to Work Bill, 'salting,' or 'Card Check' Repeal.

"Whether they choose to vote for Right to Work or risk becoming another Tom Daschle, the Right to Work principle will benefit."

Mr. Mix offered his thanks in advance to all Committee members who are helping this month to build the Right to Work movement and increase the momentum for votes on pro-Right to Work legislation by becoming special sponsors of the Matching Grant Challenge. 



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) may well still

control enough votes to stop pro-Right to Work measures from passing, but their grip is loosening.

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