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September 8 House Hearing to Address H.R.500 *National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix Will Testify*

For decades, small business employees and employers have constituted a key part of the American Right to Work movement.

And just after Labor Day, employees and small business representatives will get an opportunity to make their case for national Right to Work legislation at a Capitol Hill hearing.

Heeding the requests of freedom-loving constituents and other citizens, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) announced in July that the House Small Business panel she chairs would hold a hearing that addresses pending national Right to Work legislation.

Current Federal Labor Law Stacked Against The Individual Worker

The September 8 hearing in Mrs. Musgrave's Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs is an important development for H.R.500, the National Right to Work Act, said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"The Small Business panel hearing will improve prospects for recorded floor votes on H.R.500 and its Senate companion, S.370," he explained.

"Millions of civic-minded Americans who have never had personal dealings with a union, either as an employee or as an employer, have no idea to what extent current federal labor law is stacked against the individual worker," Mr. Mix continued.

"The fact is, today federal law authorizes the firing of employees merely because they refuse to pay dues to the union that wields 'exclusive,' i.e. monopoly, power to negotiate their



Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave will preside and Committee President Mark Mix will testify next month at a

hearing that will consider the potential impact of national Right to Work legislation.

wages, benefits, and work rules.

"When Americans who aren't familiar with how compulsory unionism works find out about it in detail, most of them get angry.

"The hearing is an opportunity to encourage the countless thousands of viewers across the nation who may see it on C-SPAN, but have never been active in the Right to Work movement, to get involved in efforts to secure votes on H.R.500 and S.370.

"And these new activists will help increase the pressure on House and Senate leaders to hold roll calls on the Right to Work Bill in their respective chambers."

Mr. Mix will be one of several pro-Right to Work witnesses.

Forced Union Dues 'Cannot Be Justified, Morally or Economically'

In his testimony, he will make a multifaceted case for H.R.500 and S.370, sponsored by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and now cosponsored by 106 members of Congress.

"Forced union membership and forced union dues and fees cannot be

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Votes Needed on Right to Work

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justified, morally or economically," said Mr. Mix.

"As long as the law of the land explicitly denies employees the right to refuse to associate with or financially support an unwanted union, all Americans' freedom of association will be threatened.

"And decades of economic data show that forced unionism is correlated with substantially slower growth in incomes and jobs."

Mr. Mix pointed to the federal government's latest annual data regarding personal income trends in the 50 states:

"Between 2000 and 2004, real personal income in Right to Work states, which bar the firing of workers for refusal to join or bankroll a union, grew more than twice as fast as in the 28 states that don't protect employees from federally-imposed compulsory union dues."

(Oklahoma, whose Right to Work law took effect in late 2001, is excluded from this analysis.)

Mr. Mix continued: "The figures for the past four years reflect a long-term, intensifying trend.

"Between 1990 and 2000, aggregate real personal income in forced-dues states grew by just two-thirds as much as it did in Right to Work states.

"And an estimated net total of roughly three million workers have moved to Right to Work states since 1990."

Voters Deserve to Find Out Exactly Which Politicians Kowtow to Union Lobbyists

"The bottom line is, Right to Work advocates have the facts on their side," commented Mr. Mix.

"And elected officials like Marilyn Musgrave and Joe Wilson know it.

"There's simply no logical reason for the GOP majority leadership in the House and Senate to be timid about taking on AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and other top union bosses on the Right to Work issue.


"I hope next month's hearing will inform House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] about how political confrontations on the Right to Work issue help proponents."

Mr. Mix pointed out that many state Right to Work laws that are now on the books, including, for example, Oklahoma's and Louisiana's, were enacted only after first being defeated by substantial legislative majorities in recorded votes.

"Although they were at first unsuccessful, the recorded votes in states like Oklahoma and Louisiana gave concerned citizens a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which kowtow to union lobbyists," he explained.

"These votes paved the way for subsequent electoral victories for pro-Right to Work candidates, and, ultimately, for Right to Work legislative victories.

"The same process can unfold in Congress now -- but only if Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Frist join the battle and allow recorded votes in the near future on H.R.500 and S.370."

To reinforce Mr. Mix's call for Right to Work votes, please contact Mr. Hastert at 202-225-2976 and Mr. Frist at 202-224-3344. 

Hang On To Your Hat, Boy -- Your Hard Hat!



ADAPTED BY NRTWC

Under current law, most independent employees have little power relative to Big Labor bosses who aim to force

them into a union. But H.R.500 and S.370 would provide cover for such workers.