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Congress Returns to Face Right to Work Issue *Committee Representatives to Visit Wavering Members of Congress*

Now that the U.S. Congress has reconvened, wavering members of both the House and Senate are being confronted with intensified pressure to cosponsor and seek floor votes on the National Right to Work Act (H.R.500 and S.370).

As this month's Newsletter goes to press, National Right to Work Committee representatives are making arrangements to step up in-person lobbying efforts targeting some 50 House and Senate members who haven't yet signed on to the Right to Work Bill, even though they represent strongly pro-Right to Work constituencies.

And members of Congress and their staffs are carefully listening to what Committee representatives have to say, because grass-roots lobbying by Committee members has already demonstrated to them how important the Right to Work issue is to millions of citizens.

Right to Work Measures Already Have 118 House And Senate Sponsors

Over the course of 2005, Committee members repeatedly flooded Congress with petitions, letters, postcards, phone calls, and personal visits in support of H.R.500 and S.370.

"My associates and I are asking members of Congress who have already promised to cosponsor a national Right to Work law to make good on their word now," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"We are also asking members who have yet to take a clear stand on such legislation to support it on the merits.

"Committee representatives are explaining why the Right to Work Act is

Biggest Gainers and Losers From Domestic Migration, 2000-2005

Population Gainers

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Florida* | 1,057,619 |
| Arizona* | 408,760 |
| Nevada* | 207,945 |
| Georgia* | 232,666 |
| North Carolina* | 232,448 |
| Texas* | 218,722 |
| South Carolina* | 115,084 |

Population Losers

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| New York | -1,001,100 |
| California | -664,460 |
| Illinois | -391,031 |
| Massachusetts | -236,415 |
| New Jersey | -194,901 |
| Ohio | -177,150 |
| Michigan | -165,084 |

Right to Work states are asterisked.

Figures denote net migration from other states between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2005.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

The seven states enjoying the greatest net in-migration of people from other states all have Right to Work laws. But

not one of the seven states suffering the worst out-migration has such a law.

a necessary and just reform -- and why unabashed support for this reform is politically smart.

"Quite simply, there is no good reason, either principled or politically pragmatic, for a House member or senator who isn't already in Big Labor's back pocket not to support this legislation."

Last year, the House version of the Right to Work Act -- introduced as H.R.500 by South Carolina GOP Congressman Joe Wilson on February 1, 2005 -- garnered 99 sponsors. S.370, the Senate companion measure subsequently introduced by Mississippi Republican Trent Lott, now has 19 sponsors.

"That's already a remarkably high level of support for a bill that would

implement a fundamental change for the better in federal labor policy," commented Mr. Mix.

Right to Work Legislation Would Bar Forced Union Dues

"The Right to Work legislation is very simple," he continued.

"All it would do is repeal the provisions in federal labor law that authorize and promote the firing of employees for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.

"Under current federal law, millions of workers would be terminated if they ceased to fork over dues or fees to union officials whom federal bureaucrats have

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Americans Support Right to Work

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certified as their 'exclusive,' i.e. monopoly, bargaining agents.

"Freedom-loving citizens know in their hearts that the right not to join a private organization such as a union is no less deserving of protection than the right to join.

"That's why, according to a March 2004 nationwide survey by the respected Research 2000 polling firm, 79% of Americans who regularly vote in House and Senate elections support the Right to Work principle."

Benefits of Right to Work Confirmed by Experience

Mr. Mix added that nearly four out of 10 private-sector workers are already employed in one of the 22 states where their Right to Work is legally protected.

"Year after year, states with Right to Work laws barring forced union dues and fees enjoy faster job creation and income growth," he pointed out.

A U.S. Census Bureau report issued just last month shows that ordinary citizens know where the best opportunities are.

Between 2000 and 2005, the report showed, a net 2.6 million residents of forced-unionism states (mostly employees, small business owners, and their family members) moved to Right to Work states.

In all of the seven states suffering from the greatest absolute net out-migration of people to other states during this period, workers are subject to forced unionism. And all of the states benefiting from the greatest net in-migration of people have Right to Work laws. (See page one chart.)

Forced Dues Bankroll Union Bosses' Pet Politicians and Causes

In addition to fostering a business climate that is attractive to employees seeking to better their lot and to small firms, Right to Work laws clearly constitute the most effective way to protect employees' freedom of political speech from overweening union officials.

In 2003-4, it's estimated Big Labor spent a billion dollars or more in union treasury funds, mostly forced-dues money, on phone banks, mailings,

leafleting, and get-out-the-vote drives designed to elect union bosses' favored candidates.

This happened despite the fact the U.S. Supreme Court has declared that, even in non-Right to Work states, employees aren't supposed to be forced to pay for union bosses' non-bargaining activities.

As long as the federal forced-dues system remains in place, forced dues-paying employees and their Right to Work attorneys will typically face months or years of union lawyers' stonewalling before the employees can actually exercise their right not to bankroll Big Labor politics.

Only enactment of national Right to Work legislation would render practicable the political rights employees are entitled to under decisions won by Right to Work attorneys.

Congressional Debates, Votes On Forced-Unionism Issue Help Right to Work Advocates

By pressing wavering politicians to cosponsor H.R.500 and S.370, Right to Work representatives are defending America's economic strength and its political freedom.

And openly supporting Right to Work also happens to be the politically smart thing for an elected official to do.

"Politicians who will surely be running against Big Labor puppets when they seek reelection can learn from history: They'll almost certainly do better if the forced-unionism issue is prominent," noted Mr. Mix.

As one example, Mr. Mix cited then-Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's (D-S.D.) defeat in 2004:

"Big Labor Sen. Daschle lost after leading the effort to block the creation of a new Homeland Security Department unless President Bush ceded his authority to exempt its employees from union monopoly bargaining.

"And Mr. Daschle had previously voted to filibuster to death the National Right to Work Act and to mandate union monopoly control over state and local police and firefighters nationwide.

"Well-informed political observers agree that Mr. Daschle's votes in support of forced unionism were a significant factor in his defeat by pro-Right to Work Republican John Thune.

"House and Senate votes on the National Right to Work Act this year would similarly give concerned citizens a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which kowtow to union lobbyists.

"And that would pave the way for Right to Work electoral victories, both this fall and in the years to come." 



Michigan-based autoworkers union czar Ron Gettelfinger and other union officials have turned their stronghold

states into job wastelands. H.R.500 and S.370 would help undo the damage.