

Right to Work Measures Acquire More Cosponsors

Committee Pushes For Recorded Floor Votes on Senate, House Bills

Immediately after Congress reconvened this year, National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix and other staff members launched an intense lobbying campaign designed to convince additional members of Congress to sign on as cosponsors of the National Right to Work Act.

Since February, the Right to Work team has been contacting and visiting the offices of senators and House members who had previously cosponsored national Right to Work legislation, or pledged to cosponsor such a measure, but not done so in 2005.

And with the assistance of Committee members in key states and districts who have been simultaneously lobbying their elected officials through the mail and by phone to support the Senate and House Right to Work measures, Committee staffers are making significant progress.

'Class of 2004' Senators Keep Their Pro-Right to Work Campaign Promises

On February 17, Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) became the sixth senator of the nine who were elected to the upper chamber for the first time in 2004 to sign on as a cosponsor of S.370, the Senate version of the National Right to Work Act.

Now six of the seven "Class of 2004" senators who were elected after making a campaign pledge to cosponsor Right to Work have fulfilled that pledge.

Like its House companion, H.R.500, S.370 would repeal all the provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize and promote the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union.

A total of 21 senators and 111 House members are now sponsors of S.370 and H.R.500. In February and March alone, 14 members of Congress signed on to these two bills.

"Recognizing the strong grass-roots support for the Right to Work measures and the strong moral and economic arguments for them, more and more senators and House members are cosponsoring them," said Committee President Mix.

"And Committee members are hopeful that this showing of Capitol Hill strength will encourage Senate Majority



Sen. Mel Martinez (left) recently became the sixth of the nine "Class of 2004" senators to cosponsor S.370. This



should encourage Majority Leader Bill Frist to bring the Right to Work Bill to the floor for a vote.

Leader Bill Frist [R-Tenn.] and House Speaker Dennis Hastert [R-Ill.] to schedule roll-call floor votes on S.370 and H.R.500 by the end of the summer.

"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 designated 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."

Between 2000 and 2005, Real Income Grew Over Twice as Fast in Right to Work States

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

"And the long-term experience of the 22 states that already have Right to Work laws barring forced union dues and fees on the books indicates clearly that Right to Work laws are good for the economy as well as popular.

"Between 2000 and 2005, for example, real personal income in Right to Work states [whose laws were in effect throughout this period] grew over twice as fast as in states that don't protect

employees from federally-imposed compulsory union dues."

Roll-Calls Would Force Each Politician to Take a Stand

Another key point in favor of bringing national Right to Work legislation to the Senate and House floors, continued Mr. Mix, is that President Bush and the majority leadership in both the House and the Senate are all on the record in favor of such legislation.

"In light of the overwhelming public support for the principle implemented by S.370 and H.R.500, floor votes would have very positive results, even if Big Labor killed both bills," he explained.

"Citizens across the country would get a chance to see exactly which politicians support Right to Work, and which are willing to harm our nation's economy just to please union lobbyists.

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

Mr. Mix urged Committee members everywhere to call Majority Leader Frist (202-224-3344) and Speaker Hastert (202-225-2976) and ask them to schedule floor votes on S. 370 and H.R. 500.

He also urged members to call Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), the only "Class of 2004" senator who pledged to cosponsor Right to Work, but has yet to fulfill that pledge. Mr. Isakson's D.C. phone number is 202-224-3643. 