

Right to Work Laws Improve Access to Pensions

Forced Unionism Reduces Employers' Ability to Furnish Coverage

Forced-unionism apologists often concede that the rate of job growth, both overall and private-sector in particular, is far more rapid in Right to Work states than in non-Right to Work states.

But after making such concessions, they invariably claim that the jobs created aren't "the right kind of jobs."

However, data compiled by the Washington, D.C.-based "Economic Policy Institute" in a long-term, ongoing study of the trends in private-sector pension access in the 50 states debunk one of Big Labor propagandists' standard charges against state Right to Work legislation.

Two decades ago, radical pro-forced unionism economist Jeff Faux founded the EPI as a means of advancing the collectivist ideology of Organized Labor bosses.

Today, the EPI—with Mr. Faux as its president—has become the union hierarchy's favorite "think tank" and is frequently cited in union newsletters and other union-boss propaganda.

Therefore, one would not expect EPI studies to reflect well on states with Right to Work laws, which protect employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to a union.

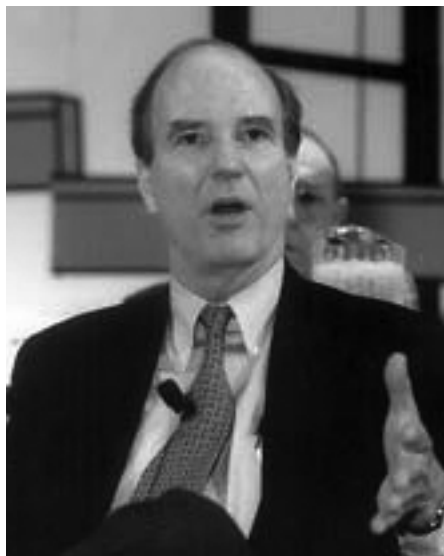
Job-Based Pension Coverage Has Grown Twice as Fast In Right to Work States

But the EPI pension data, when taken in conjunction with U.S. Labor Department data on private-sector employment in the 50 states, show that Right to Work states lead forced-unionism states by a wide margin in the creation of jobs that come with pension benefits.

Over the past quarter-century, the combined EPI-Labor Department data show, in Right to Work states the number of private-sector employees with employer-provided pension coverage soared by 52%.

That's more than double the increase in non-Right to Work states over the same period.

(For details about Right to Work states' advantage in the creation of jobs that come with pension benefits and health insurance, as well as their advantage in cost of living-adjusted



UAW.ORG

Big Labor economist Jeff Faux' "think tank" has helped document Right to Work states' pension advantage.

weekly earnings, visit www.nilrr.org—the Web site of the National Institute for Labor Relations Research.)

Right to Work States' Advantage Has Persisted In Recessions and Booms

While overall private-sector pension coverage has expanded considerably over time, it tends to contract for fairly extended periods before, during and after national recessions before recouping the temporary losses and returning to the long-term growth trend.

But Right to Work states' advantage

over forced-dues states has persisted "regardless of the economic climate," noted Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Firms that are shackled by compulsory unionism, as well as firms that remain independent from it, but operate in states where compulsory-dues contracts are sanctioned, clearly have been far less successful at creating new jobs that offer pension benefits.

"By granting union officials the special privilege of offering the only 'employee' perspective in negotiations over a firm's pay and benefit package and work rules and guaranteeing those same union officials a steady revenue stream of conscripted dues money, forced unionism promotes workplace strife.

"This strife undermines productivity and innovation, and ultimately kills jobs.

"Furthermore, wherever forced union dues are legal, union bosses use a large chunk of the money they rake in to bankroll Tax & Spend, regulation-happy politicians at the state and local levels as well as the federal level. Fewer jobs that pay well and offer good pension and health benefits are created as a consequence."

Mr. Leen concluded that the EPI pension data inadvertently reaffirm the need for passage of the National Right to Work Act (introduced in the current Congress as S.370 and H.R.500), which would repeal all federal labor-law provisions that authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay union dues or fees. 📌

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