

# Right to Work Protected in State Legislatures

## *State-Level Political Action Group Assists Pro-Freedom Candidates*

Last fall, Big Labor seemed to be on the verge of securing its #1 legislative objective in Virginia, teacher union bosses' "back door" monopoly-bargaining bill.

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Tim Kaine, who had already publicly endorsed this scheme, was running well ahead in the polls.

"Back door" monopoly bargaining would authorize quasi-negotiations between school boards and National Education Association (NEA) union bosses who purport to speak for all teachers.

Teachers who chose not to join the union and didn't share its objectives wouldn't be allowed to be present while their fate was discussed.

Recognizing the seriousness of the threat, the National Right to Work Committee and its Virginia members fought back.

Over the course of 2005, the Committee's candidate survey and citizen mobilization program convinced many Virginia House of Delegates candidates to pledge their opposition to all forms of union monopoly bargaining.

Meanwhile, the State Employee Rights Campaign Committee (SERCC), Right to Work's state political arm, also entered the fray.

SERCC financially backs the campaigns of select nonfederal candidates who vow to defend the Right to Work once in office.

Winning pro-Right to Work candidates such as Virginia Delegates Jeff Frederick (R-Prince William County) and Scott Lingamfelter (R-Woodbridge) received support from SERCC in 2005.

Mr. Kaine went on to win a 52% to 46% victory in November 2005. But thanks to Right to Work victories in several key 2005 House of Delegates races, which were facilitated by the Committee survey program and SERCC, Virginia schools have continued to escape rule by the NEA union hierarchy.

### **As Fall Elections Approach, State Political Action Arm Plans to Step Up Giving**

This year, the Right to Work principle is once again at stake in many state legislative races across the country.

Union bosses in Nebraska and Nevada, for example, are determined to lock up just



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**system by enacting Right to Work legislation in the near future. SERCC is helping them.**

a few additional legislative seats so that they will have sufficient votes to pass bills that would severely weaken those states' Right to Work laws.

And in more than half-a-dozen forced-unionism states, freedom-loving citizens are hoping to pave the way for enactment of state Right to Work legislation in the near future.

Along with the candidate survey programs conducted by the Committee and allied regional and state organizations, SERCC can help Right to Work advocates build legislative bulwarks this year.

As this year's November elections approach, SERCC plans to step up its contributions to worthy candidates in close races.

But that will only be possible with Committee members' help, noted Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"Many Right to Work members also contribute to SERCC," he pointed out.

"And this month, most Right to Work Newsletter readers who receive their copies through the mail will find enclosed with them a letter urging them to contribute to SERCC."

### **'Too Much Is at Stake This Year For SERCC to Sit on the Sidelines'**

"Too much is at stake this year for SERCC to sit on the sidelines due to lack of funds," explained Mr. Stafford.

"But I know I can count on employee-freedom advocates to come through so we can defend all existing state Right to Work laws and build on recent gains in states like Montana, Missouri and Kentucky.

"After all, every new state Right to Work law that citizens adopt with the help of the Committee and SERCC brings Committee members closer to our goal of enacting a nationwide ban on compulsory union dues."