

Right to Work Key Part of 'Nebraska Advantage'

Cornhuskers Beat Back Union-Boss Scheme to Blunt Their Edge

As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the American Midwest consists of 12 states.

Five of the 12 (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa) currently have Right to Work laws protecting employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union as a condition of employment.

But the other seven (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio) do not protect employees from the forced-unionism provisions in federal labor law.

Just as the 22 Right to Work states nationwide have consistently outperformed economically the 28 non-Right to Work states, the aggregate business-and-job climate of the five Midwestern Right to Work states is far superior to that of the seven Midwestern non-Right to Work states.

From 1996 until 2006, for example, U.S. Labor Department data show that total private-sector employment in Midwestern Right to Work states increased by 11.8%, well over double the aggregate 4.9% increase in Midwestern non-Right to Work states.

Right to Work Nebraska's individual job growth of 14.4% was even stronger relative to that of non-Right to Work states. Private-sector employment in Nebraska increased more than in any single Midwestern forced-unionism state.

Professional consultants whose livelihoods depend on providing business clients with unbiased and accurate

information about the best places to locate or relocate their facilities recognize the great significance of Right to Work laws.

Union-Label Legislators Eager to Tamper With Success

One outstanding example is Dr. Ronald Pollina, president and founder of Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. (PCRE), which since 1981 has assisted numerous Fortune 500 and venture firms with their real estate needs. Dr. Pollina has written over 70 articles and books on corporate relocation and related topics.

And a just-issued report by PCRE ranking the 50 states for business climate finds that *all* of the top 12 and *not one* of the bottom 13 have Right to Work laws.

The report especially commends Nebraska, ranked #10, for its "pro-business strategies in the areas of human resources," notably including its "status as a right-to-work state."

Nevertheless, this spring a number of Big Labor state legislators who claim to have the best interests of Nebraska employees and businesses at heart have been trying to browbeat their colleagues into enacting legislation (L.B.57) that would gut the Right to Work law.

L.B.57, sponsored by union-label Sen. Don Preister (Omaha), would force employees who are compelled to accept a union as their "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining agent in contract negotiations,



Mark Mix: Ordinary Cornhuskers won't tolerate any tampering with their Right to Work law.

but have chosen not to join the union, to still pay union "agency" fees.

Even AFL-CIO-funded "think tank" researcher Richard Rothstein has admitted that one typical effect of a union contract is "reducing pay of the most productive workers."

Nevertheless, Mr. Preister and other forced-unionism apologists like Omaha Sen. Ted White try to justify their crusade by mindlessly repeating that "all" workers under union monopoly-bargaining control "benefit" as a result!

Committee Members Stall Forced-Unionism Measure

Fortunately, a full-court lobbying effort by the National Right to Work Committee, including in-person testimony by Legislative Director Greg Mourad and both statewide and targeted mailings, has sapped L.B.57's momentum.

On March 7, L.B.57 came to the Senate floor. But Right to Work members, mobilized by calls from the Committee's two phone banks, inundated legislators with so many calls that they decided to set the bill aside the next day.

"Ordinary Cornhuskers recognize that their Right to Work law is a key part of what Gov. Dave Heineman calls the 'Nebraska Advantage,'" said Committee President Mark Mix. "They will vigorously resist any effort to resuscitate L.B.57 this year or in 2008."

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Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Mark Mix..... President

Reed Larson Exec. Cmte. Chairman

Stephen Goodrick..... Vice President

Matthew Leen..... Vice President

Doug Stafford..... Vice President

Stanley Greer..... Newsletter Editor

Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

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