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## Committee Blocks Public-Safety Union Power Grab *But IAFF Union Czar Claims Big Labor Victory Remains 'Inevitable'*

Big Labor politicians are evidently well aware that the American people do not support their scheme to establish a new federal mandate imposing union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) over state and local police firefighters and other public-safety employees nationwide.

Just before Congress adjourned last month, union-label U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) tried to sneak this legislation through his chamber while attracting as little public attention as possible.

Mr. Reid and Big Labor favorite Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) attempted to tack the Senate version of the Policy/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill (S.2123) onto the so-called Farm Bill Extension Act (H.R.2419).

And Mr. Reid and Mr. Harkin undoubtedly would have succeeded in securing a Senate rubber-stamp for a huge expansion of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges without facing major resistance -- but for the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members.

On December 11, within just hours after learning that Mr. Harkin would soon bring up S.2123 as an amendment to H.R.2419, Committee legislative leaders directed the Committee's phone operation to begin mobilizing opposition across the country.

### 'National Right to Work . . . Lobbying Hard Against Us'

In a December 12 mass e-mail message to state and local International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union officials, IAFF political chief Kevin O'Connor admitted: "In every office,



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**Last month, forced-unionism cheerleader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) tried, but failed, to sneak through the Senate a**

**scheme to federalize union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-safety officers.**

senators are already receiving dozens of calls -- from constituents in their states who oppose this . . . legislation."

And in a follow-up e-mail the next day, IAFF czar Harold Schaitberger explicitly acknowledged that members and supporters of "National Right to Work" as well as "city managers" were making the calls opposing the Reid-Harkin Amendment.

By Thursday evening, December 13, Mr. Reid realized that it would take an

extended, public floor battle to attach this amendment to H.R.2419 -- and the majority leader clearly didn't want to subject vulnerable pro-forced unionism members of his caucus to the backlash they would endure for their votes.

Rather than force union-label Senate Democrats like Mary Landrieu (La.), Max Baucus (Mont.), and Tim Johnson

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# Union Monopolists Incite Strikes

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(S.D.) to jeopardize their 2008 re-election bids by casting high-profile votes in support of forced unionism now, Mr. Reid and Mr. Harkin decided to withdraw their amendment.

Of course, Big Labor Senate Democrats are virtually certain to try again early this year to smuggle S.2123 through their chamber. And Mr. Schaitberger continues to thunder that a victory for public-safety union bosses is "inevitable" in 2008.

S.2123 and its nearly identical companion measure, H.R.980, which was rubber-stamped by the U.S. House last summer, would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they personally never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

## Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Monopoly Bargaining

Moreover, S.2123 and H.R.980 do NOT protect the Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues or fees either of the public-safety employees upon whom Congress is imposing monopoly bargaining, or of the public-safety employees who are already subject to it.

"Americans overwhelmingly oppose monopoly bargaining, period," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"The public certainly has no interest in backing legislation designed to help Big Labor grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over hundreds of thousands of additional employees."

Mr. Mix cited a recent scientific nationwide survey conducted by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000.

The poll found that 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe that employees in unionized businesses should retain the right to bargain for themselves. Just 17% of regular voters believe employees should not have that right, while 2% are unsure.

"Forcing union nonmembers to accept public-safety union officials as their monopoly-bargaining agent is what S.2123 and H.R.980 are all about," explained Mr. Mix.

"Any state law or local ordinance authorizing public-safety union bosses to bargain on behalf of their members only will get tossed in the scrapheap if either measure becomes law.

"And government union bosses actually see this legislation as just a first step toward enactment of a federal mandate corraling state and local public employees of all kinds into unions!

"S.2123 simply can't withstand public scrutiny. And Harry Reid evidently knows it."

## Right to Work Committee And Its Members Will Keep Turning up the Heat

Mr. Mix added: "On top of the fact that the vast majority of Americans oppose monopoly bargaining in principle, there are other serious concerns about S.2123/H.R.980.

"Historically, states enacting such monopoly-bargaining laws have experienced dramatic increases in public-safety strikes, both legal and illegal.

"Moreover, since monopoly bargaining also sharply increases government union bosses' political power, politicians courting Big Labor political support have regularly made state and local taxpayers foot the bill for such strikes.

"Enactment of S.2123 or H.R.980 would be disastrous, not just for independent-minded public-safety officers and Right to Work advocates, but also for taxpayers and citizens who

depend on their local police and fire departments.


"That's why the National Right to Work Committee and its members can't afford to rest on our laurels for a minute. We will keep turning up the heat in preparation for the next Senate showdown over S.2123.

"This month, the Committee is launching a multi-state TV and newspaper ad campaign targeting primarily senators who are either refusing to say how they will vote on S.2123, or supporting it while falsely saying it would not corral public-safety officers into unwanted unions.

"To multiply the impact of the ad campaign, Right to Work officers are traveling to hold press conferences in large cities in each of the targeted states to capture the attention of the state media.

"And most important of all, the Committee will continue mobilizing more and more freedom-loving Americans to get involved in the campaign against S.2123/H.R.980 through its direct mail program and phone bank.

"Thanks largely to all the fine work done by Right to Work members and staffers in 2007, union lobbyists are facing stiffer Senate resistance to S.2123 than they once expected.

"Now I urge all Right to Work members to maintain and expand their support, both lobbying and financial, for our campaign. Working together, we can stop the federalization of public-safety monopoly bargaining in 2008." 



South Carolina's Jim DeMint (left) and several other pro-Right to Work senators provided critical support for

the Committee's effort to prevent public-safety union bosses' S.2123 from being rubber-stamped.

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