

Iowa Right to Work Law Again Under Fire

Committee and Hawkeye State Allies Are Steeled For New Showdown

Even as Right to Work supporters were, by a razor-thin margin, blocking Big Labor's forced-union-fee scheme in the Iowa House last spring, an Iowa union lobbyist vowed to National Right to Work Committee legislative strategists that forced union fees would be enacted in 2008.

Now, Iowa Big Labor bosses are reportedly claiming in union halls they really do have the votes they need this year to win.

One pro-forced unionism state representative who was not available for roll-call votes in early 2007 is back in the Legislature this month.

And several Democrats who last year said they would not support forced union fees may now have been intimidated into quietly changing their position by union-boss threats to recruit and bankroll primary challengers if they didn't knuckle under.

However, the National Right to Work Committee and the re-energized Iowans for Right to Work Committee have no intention of allowing Big Labor politicians to foist forced union fees on employees without putting up an all-out fight.

Iowa Right to Work Supporters Flooded Legislators' Lines

In late 2006, union-label state Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D-Council Bluffs) and state House Speaker Pat Murphy (D-Dubuque) first announced their plans to gut Iowa's popular Right to Work law by ramming a forced-union-fee bill through the Legislature.

Even before the new Legislature convened in January 2007, the National Committee began sending out a series of statewide and targeted mailings to members and supporters in Iowa, with selected House and Senate members in vulnerable seats especially targeted.

And once the Legislature convened, roughly a dozen National Committee legislative staffers focused their full-time attention on the Iowa battle, carefully coordinating their activities with the grassroots Iowans for Right to Work group.

And the National and Iowa Committees turned up the heat higher after the forced-union-fee bill (S.F.413) was rubber-stamped by the Senate.

On the day of the scheduled House vote, Iowa Right to Work supporters,



Mark Mix's 2007 testimony at the Iowa capitol in Des Moines was part of a major successful effort to block

forced-union-fee legislation in the Hawkeye State. But union bosses are determined to prevail this year.

mobilized primarily by the National Committee's two phone banks and door-to-door literature distributions, flooded state representatives' phone lines with calls opposing S.F.413.

Recognizing that they lacked the votes to pass S.F.413 due to Democratic defections and unified GOP opposition, Speaker Murphy and other Democratic House leaders finally called off the roll call late that day.

And despite their repeated attempts until the Legislature adjourned last April 29, Mr. Murphy and his cohorts were never able to round up enough votes to pass S.F.413.

Consequently, they never put it to a House vote.

Forced Union Fees Would Hurt Iowa's Economy

Unfortunately, in a recent Q & A session on the statewide public TV program *Iowa Press*, Mr. Gronstal made it obvious he and Mr. Murphy would try again to gut Iowa's Right to Work law -- if they conclude the union bosses are correct in claiming they can muster up enough votes to pass such a scheme.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix promised that the

National Committee and its Iowa allies would do everything possible, just as they did in 2007, to prove the union bosses wrong.

Mr. Mix pointed out that gutting Iowa's Right to Work law would harm the state's economy as well as independent-minded workers:

"Right to Work laws are strongly correlated with faster growth in personal incomes and jobs.

"Among Iowa and the seven states with which it borders, over the last five years for which data are available, every single Right to Work state enjoyed faster personal income growth than every single non-Right to Work state.

"To protect their cherished Right to Work law, freedom-loving Iowans must remain vigilant.

"Because S.F.413 was never rejected in a direct House floor vote, this forced-fee bill is still alive and could come up at any time after the Iowa Legislature reconvenes this month.

"I urge pro-Right to Work Iowans to keep fighting Big Labor tooth-and-nail until this year's primary and general elections, when citizens across the state will finally get to use the ballot box to let their legislators know how strongly they oppose forced unionism." 