

Committee Getting Ready For 2009

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economically detrimental for most workers. And the economy as a whole would also be harmed.

In 2006, cost of living-adjusted weekly earnings in the 15 states with the highest share of private-sector employees subject to union monopoly bargaining were \$722, roughly \$31 less than in the 15 states with the lowest share of private-sector employees under Big Labor control.

That comes to a \$1600-a-year disadvantage for full-time employees in states with high monopoly-bargaining density!

(The average weekly earnings and cost-of-living data cited come, respectively, from the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington, D.C., and the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center in Jefferson City, Mo.).

Between 1996 and 2006, the 15 states with the highest share of private-sector employees under union monopoly (as of 1996) had an aggregate private-sector job growth of 8.4%, far less than half the 21.3% growth in the 15 states with the lowest amount of union monopoly. (Job growth data come from the U.S. Labor Department.)

And in 2006, the aggregate cost of living in the 15 states where Big Labor wields monopoly power over the highest share of workers was 22% higher than the average for the 15 states with the lowest share of workers subject to union control.

Committee Members Strive To Maintain, Strengthen Firewall in Senate

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix vowed that the Committee and its members would make every possible effort this year to ensure that the card-check scheme isn't enacted in 2009 -- regardless of who is elected President this fall.

To achieve this goal, the Committee aims to keep the union hierarchy clearly below, with at least a few votes to spare, the 60 Senate votes it will need, even if Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama is in the White House, to cut off debate by Right to Work allies and pass the card-check scheme.

And the Committee's most important tool for maintaining and perhaps even strengthening its Senate firewall is its federal Candidate Survey 2008.

As longtime Committee members know, the federal candidate survey asks congressional and presidential candidates to commit themselves to opposition to forced-unionism power grabs and support for pro-Right to Work measures if elected.

"All Senate and House candidates are given several chances to return their surveys and answer 100% in favor of Right to Work," noted Mr. Mix.

"And hundreds of thousands of Committee supporters are mobilized to lobby each candidate to respond to his or her Right to Work survey.

"The Committee's future ability to defeat card-check forced unionism and ultimately pass a national Right to Work law depends on the success of the survey program."

Committee Members Must Also Focus on Current Legislative Session

"But even as they work to ensure that the card-check bill won't become law in 2009 or 2010, Committee members also must remain vigilant to prevent union lobbyists from sneaking this measure through during the current Congress," cautioned Mr. Mix.

"Although H.R.800 did not win approval when it came to the Senate floor last year, union-label Senate Majority

Leader Harry Reid [D-Nev.] could bring it up again or move the identical legislation introduced by forced-unionism diehard Ted Kennedy [D-Mass.] at any time.


"And Mr. Reid's likely strategy would be to try to attach H.R.800/S.1041 to a defense appropriation or other 'must-pass' legislation that GOP senators would be reluctant to block through an extended debate and the White House would be very reluctant to veto.

"While union bosses apparently aren't counting on passing card-check forced unionism into law this year, there's no sound reason to believe they won't try.

"That's why Right to Work members must keep turning up the pressure not just on 2008 candidates and challengers, but also on senators who aren't running for reelection this year.

"I know I can count on the Committee's 2.2 million members to do everything possible to derail the Big Labor juggernaut before employees' and employers' freedom to resist union monopoly bargaining is crushed.

"In the coming months, the Committee will be regularly alerting our members and supporters about what they can do to defeat the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill, both in the immediate future and over the long run.

"Together, we can stop the union bosses, and then resume progress toward enactment of a national Right to Work law barring all forced union dues and fees." 

Union Monopoly Hurts Workers	
Growth in Real Personal Income 1996-2006	Growth in Non-Farm, Private-Sector Jobs, 1996-2006
High Union-Monopoly States: 22.4%	High Union-Monopoly States: +8.4%
Low Union-Monopoly States: 41.4%	Low Union-Monopoly States: +21.3%
Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)	Source: BLS
Increase in People Covered by Private Health Insurance, 1999-2006	2006 Cost of Living-Adjusted Disposable Income Per Capita
High Union-Monopoly States: -2.3%	High Union-Monopoly States: . . . \$29,058
Low Union-Monopoly States: +3.9%	Low Union-Monopoly States: . . . \$31,624
Source: Census Bureau	Sources: BEA, Congressional Quarterly

By a wide array of measures, employees in the 15 states where union monopoly-bargaining power is greatest

are faring significantly worse than employees in the 15 states with the lowest monopoly-bargaining density.

Rival Democrats Both Back 'Card-Check' Scheme

Legislation Would Promote Union Monopoly Bargaining, Hurt Workers

As this issue of the National Right to Work Newsletter goes to press in early February, it is still unclear whether U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (N.Y.) or Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) will be the Democratic nominee for President this year.

However, for Right to Work supporters across America, at least one salient point is already perfectly clear: The 2008 Democratic presidential nominee will be a ferocious advocate of expanding Big Labor's forced-unionism power over employees.

Both Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama have enthusiastically endorsed all of the key items on the union hierarchy's anti-Right to Work legislative agenda, including, naturally, the top item, the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.

This legislation (H.R.800 and S.1041) sailed through the U.S. House last March and received the votes of a majority of senators, but was stalled by a Right to Work-aided debate, on June 27, 2007.

It would rewrite federal labor law concerning so-called "card checks" to make it even easier for Big Labor to obtain "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining control over employees at workplaces nationwide.

Candidates Pledge Allegiance To Unpopular Agenda Because Of Union Electoral Clout

Like other forced-unionism power grabs on the union bosses' agenda, the card-check bill isn't popular with rank-and-file Democrats, let alone with American citizens on the whole.

A scientific poll conducted in December 2006 by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000 found that 62% of Democrats nationwide agree that employees "who do not want to be represented" by the union in their company unit should "have the right to bargain for themselves."

Nearly two-thirds of Democrats thus reject union monopoly bargaining in principle.

But their party's pro-forced unionism politicians are willing not only to defend union bosses' current monopoly-bargaining privileges, but also to support card-check legislation that would make it even easier for Big Labor to secure monopoly-bargaining power over workers.



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Because of the enormous clout of Big Labor's forced union dues-funded political machine, AFL-CIO czar John

Sweeney and other union bosses have secured the allegiance of both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Why are Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama so eager to swear their fealty to an unpopular scheme like the card-check bill?

Last summer, AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman succinctly answered this question: "The AFL-CIO program is the biggest political program in the country." This was no idle boast.

Federal and state laws forcing employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment make it possible for the AFL-CIO, its affiliates, and other unions to spend \$4.2 billion a year, or \$16 million per working day, on salaries, benefits, and other compensation for union officers and staff members.

In non-election years, union professionals fill their days infiltrating businesses in every state, stirring up hate-the-boss strife among workers.

But during election season, this army is transformed into a full-time political operation.

Union officials systematically drop the work for which they are purportedly paid in order to beat the drum for Big Labor-endorsed candidates.

They run phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives, prepare campaign mailings,

and walk precincts.

No other type of non-profit organization has sufficient staff to make "in-kind" contributions to political candidates of anywhere near this magnitude.

And business certainly has no parallel political army, since profit-minded shareholders rarely if ever are willing to release their managers from normal business for months on end so that they can politick full time.

Higher Monopoly-Bargaining Density Correlated With Lower Real Incomes

It's obvious why Big Labor is pushing so hard for enactment, now or in the near future, of the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill. It would mean more power, and potentially billions of additional forced-dues dollars, for union officials.

But ample evidence indicates that radically expanding union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges, and the number of employees under monopoly-bargaining control, would be

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