

# Federally-Imposed Forced Unionism Expensive

## Commerce Data Put Annual Cost at Half-Trillion Dollars

With every passing year, the federal labor-law provisions that authorize the firing of roughly 7.3 million American employees should they refuse to pay union dues or fees as a job condition get even harder to defend.

In late 2007, the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released a report showing that between 2000 and 2006 the combined real output of states with Right to Work laws barring all forced union dues grew by 3.13% a year.

### Had Whole U.S. Grown at Right To Work Pace, GDP Would Be Half-Trillion Dollars Higher

That's roughly half again as fast as the combined real annual growth of states that do not protect employees from forced union dues.

(Oklahoma, whose Right to Work law took effect in late 2001, is excluded from this analysis of BEA data.)

To put it another way, had the entire country grown as fast as Right to Work states did over just this six-year period, by 2006 our national gross domestic product (GDP) would have been \$11.727 trillion in constant, "chained" 2000 dollars, or roughly a half-trillion 2006 dollars above the actual figure.

National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen said that the recent BEA data should embolden the 90 U.S. House and Senate sponsors of national Right to Work legislation in their respective chambers to push for action on these measures.

### Forced Dues Not Justified, Morally or Economically

"The House and Senate Right to Work Bills [H.R.697 and S.1301] would abolish the federal labor-law provisions that force workers to pay dues to an unwanted union, or be fired," noted Mr. Leen.

"The right to do something becomes coercion if it is not accompanied by a corresponding right to refrain.

"As long as the law of the land explicitly denies employees the right to refuse to associate with or financially support a union, all Americans' freedom will be threatened.

"Even most forced-unionism apologists

sense the strength of this moral argument.

"That's why they typically try to change the subject to economics. But BEA and other official government statistics keep undercutting this gambit."

Mr. Leen elaborated that the Right to Work economic-growth advantage has been apparent in every region of the country:

"Between 2000 and 2006, the real GDP of Right to Work states in the West grew more than 50% faster than in non-Right to Work states in that region.

"In the Midwest, the real GDP of Right to Work states grew roughly twice as fast as that of non-Right to Work states."

"Across the South, GDP grew roughly 11% faster in Right to Work states than in forced-dues states.

"And the economies of Right to Work states nationwide grew nearly half again as fast as did the aggregate economy of the U.S. Northeast, the only region of the country with no Right to Work states."

"The already enormous cost of federally-imposed forced unionism is bound to keep getting steeper as long as Congress maintains the policies that perpetuate it.

"The remedy is H.R.697 and S.1301, which would completely repeal federally-


imposed forced union dues and fees.

"And the National Right to Work Committee will be working with congressional allies this year to push for floor votes on the Right to Work legislation through an 'amendment strategy.'"

### Committee to Pursue 'Amendment Strategy' to Secure Roll-Call Vote

"Union-label Democrat leaders of the House and Senate are highly unlikely to allow votes on freestanding Right to Work legislation. However, Senate rules generally allow individual members of the chamber to force votes on any amendment that is 'germane' to the legislation on the floor," Mr. Leen explained.

"Whenever Big Labor pushes to the Senate floor a power grab designed to expand union bosses' federal forced-unionism privileges over employees, the Committee and its Senate allies will fight back by seeking recorded votes on an amendment to revoke those forced-unionism privileges.

"In politics, as in sports, the best defense is often a good offense." 

## Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) In Millions of Chained 2000 Dollars

Regions	2000	2006	Average Annual Percentage Growth
<b>West</b>			
Right to Work States	\$352,140	\$453,536	4.31%
Forced-Dues States	\$1,932,733	\$2,277,429	2.76%
<b>Midwest</b>			
Right to Work States	\$269,327	\$315,362	2.67%
Forced-Dues States	\$1,905,392	\$2,061,752	1.32%
<b>South</b>			
Right to Work States	\$2,688,405	\$3,212,370	3.01%
Forced-Dues States	\$375,215	\$441,040	2.72%
<b>Northeast</b>			
Forced-Dues States	\$2,077,436	\$2,351,861	2.09%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

\*Oklahoma did not become a Right to Work state until 2001 and was, therefore, excluded from this study.

In every U.S. region where there are both Right to Work states and forced-unionism states, the Right to Work

states are growing faster. In the Midwest, Right to Work states are growing twice as fast.