

# Maryland Voters Reject Big Labor Appeaser

## *Congressman Wayne Gilchrest Backed Police/Fire Forced Unionism*

Time and again, union officials have demonstrated their "gratitude" to Republican politicians who toe the union line by targeting them for defeat at election time.

But even in those rare instances when, for tactical reasons, union bosses actually bestow some of their political largesse on a Big Labor-appeasing Republican, it rarely if ever does the politician any good.

Witness the recent example of U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.).

Last July, Mr. Gilchrest was one of a number of House members who broke campaign promises they had previously made to pro-Right to Work constituents by voting in favor of H.R.980, Big Labor's so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

### **Bill Would Institute Federal Public-Safety Union Monopoly-Bargaining Mandate**

H.R.980 would establish a new federal mandate imposing union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) over state and local police and firefighters and other public-safety employees in all 50 states.

It would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they never voted for, and want nothing to do

with.

The National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members strongly oppose H.R.980 and its nearly identical Senate companion, S.2123.

For months, Committee members and supporters have been, through letters, phone calls, and personal visits, expressing their disappointment with all the politicians who have supported this legislation.

### **Congressman Gilchrest Scorned Opportunity To Change Course**

And well before the Maryland primary campaigns got underway, Committee legislative staff met with Mr. Gilchrest's staff to pass on Committee President Mark Mix's request that he apologize publicly for his pro-H.R.980 vote and pledge to oppose such legislation consistently in the future.

Only after the congressman refused to change course did the Committee decide, in the weeks before the Maryland primaries, to mobilize more than 26,000 Right to Work supporters throughout Mr. Gilchrest's Eastern Maryland district to contact him and urge him to stop appeasing the union hierarchy.

But Mr. Gilchrest also chose to ignore his pro-Right to Work constituents' pleas. And on Election Day, he paid a price for siding with Big Labor against Right to Work supporters.

The incumbent congressman received a mere 32% of the vote in a three-way race for his district's Republican nomination.

The contest was won by state Sen. Andy Harris (Baltimore County).

Mr. Harris has compiled a strongly pro-Right to Work record in the Maryland Senate and has pledged also to oppose forced unionism across the board in Congress.

### **Congressman Tom Davis Also Paid Political Price**

Because they calculated Mr. Gilchrest's district is highly unlikely to elect a Big Labor Democrat, top bosses of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and other unions funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in union PAC money into his campaign.

But as the election results showed, the union-boss PAC cash infusions didn't come close to making up for the damage Mr. Gilchrest did to himself by both voting for H.R.980 and refusing to repudiate that vote when he had the chance.

And Mr. Gilchrest isn't the only Big Labor-appeasing Capitol Hill Republican whose vote in favor of H.R.980 last summer has since come back to haunt him.

When U.S. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) announced in August 2007 that he would not seek another term in office, northern Virginia Congressman Tom Davis was widely considered by the media to be the favorite to capture the GOP nomination for the open seat.

However, when Mr. Davis sought to win the approval of Republican Party officials in the Old Dominion for a 2008 Senate bid, he learned that his vote for H.R.980, which would supercede a 15-year-old Virginia law banning union monopoly bargaining over public employees, had cost him critical support.

In December, Mr. Davis announced he would not run for the Warner seat after all, and early this year he announced that he would leave the House in 2009.

"Regardless of whether it is reelection or higher office they are seeking, other Big Labor appeasers on Capitol Hill ought to pay heed now to what happened to Wayne Gilchrest in February," commented Mark Mix.

"It's not too late for many of them to undo the damage they inflicted on themselves by voting for H.R.980." 📌



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Last month, outraged Right to Work supporters in Maryland helped defeat GOP Congressman Wayne

Gilchrest after he had repeatedly ignored their pleas to stop kowtowing to power-hungry union bosses