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Right to Work Economic Advantage Clear, Wide *Employment Growth More Than Double That of Forced-Dues States*

Even as Big Labor bosses eagerly anticipate tightening their grip over Congress in this fall's elections, the National Right to Work Committee is working to ensure the issue of repeal of federally-imposed forced union dues and fees is put before the American people in 2008.

Recently, Committee President Mark Mix has met with several leading Right to Work allies in Congress to discuss how the forced-dues repeal measures now pending before the U.S. Senate

and House (S.1301 and H.R.697) could be brought up for recorded votes despite the opposition of Big Labor Capitol Hill Democrats.

Union-label Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) do not want roll calls on these two measures, observed Mr. Mix, first of all because they know public opinion is overwhelmingly against them on the Right to Work issue.

"Another reason Big Labor doesn't want a debate over the forced-unionism

issue," he noted, "is that the economic impact of pro-Right to Work policies where they are already in place is so manifestly positive."

Legislation Would End Private-Sector Forced Union Dues Nationwide

Forced-dues repeal, also known as the National Right to Work Act, would end private-sector forced unionism nationwide by removing the sections of federal labor law that allow union bosses to force workers to join or pay dues or fees to a union just to get or keep a job.

The current Senate and House versions of this measure were introduced, respectively, in May 2007 and January 2007. The Right to Work legislation now has a total of 90 sponsors in both chambers of Congress.

"Forced union membership and forced union dues cannot be justified, morally or economically," said Mr. Mix.

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

"And decades of economic data show that forced unionism is correlated with substantially slower growth in incomes and jobs."

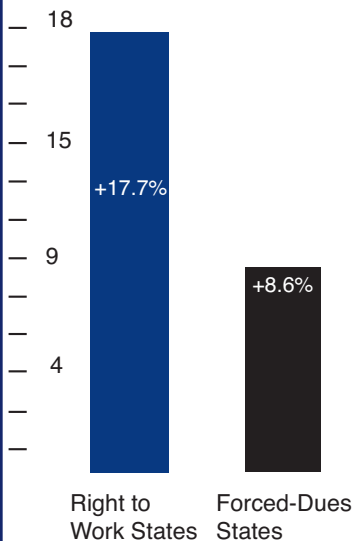
Facts Rebut Big Labor Apologists -- Again

Mr. Mix pointed to the U.S. Labor and Commerce Departments' data regarding job and personal income trends in the 50 states over the past decade.

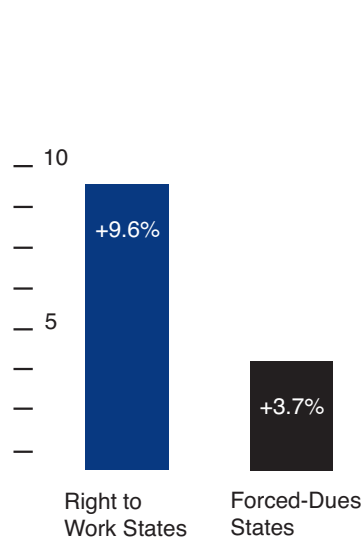
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Right to Work Spurs Job Growth

Private-Sector Employment, 1997-2007



Private-Sector Employment, 2002-2007



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

During the past decade and in just the most recent years as well, private-sector employment has grown more

than twice as fast in Right to Work states as it has in forced-union-dues states.

Right to Work Attracts Employees

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"Between 1997 and 2007, private-sector employment in Right to Work states, which bar the firing of workers for refusal to join or bankroll a union, grew by 17.7%, more than twice as fast as in the 28 states that don't protect employees from federally-imposed compulsory union dues," Mr. Mix noted.

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

"And the Right to Work advantage over the past five years is even wider. From 2002 to 2007, employment in Right to Work states, including Oklahoma, grew by 9.6% -- nearly triple the aggregate gain of forced-dues states.

"From 2006 to 2007 alone, with the nation beset by recession fears, private-sector jobs in Right to Work states increased at well over double the pace of forced-dues states."

Mr. Mix next turned his attention to Commerce Department data on personal income growth, adjusting the data for cost of living with the help of the Labor Department's inflation-calculator index.

"Between 2002 and 2007," he continued, real personal income in Right to Work states grew by 18.6%, more than half again as fast as in non-Right to Work states.

"And seven of the top eight states in personal income growth have Right to Work laws.

"U.S. Census Bureau data show that, between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2007, a net total of 4.19 million Americans moved from forced-unionism states to Right to Work states. That's on top of a net population transfer of nearly five million Americans to Right to Work states during the 1990's."

Right to Work's True Congressional Allies Must Be Prepared to Play Offense

"And young employees and entrepreneurs in their twenties and thirties constitute a disproportionately large share of this huge population shift," Mr. Mix continued.

"Nationwide unemployment since the early 90's has been relatively low. It's unlikely most of the employees who moved to Right to Work states couldn't find at least some sort of job where they had been living.

"Clearly, most were lured to Right to Work states by better opportunities and wages and salaries that are higher when cost of living and taxes are taken into account."

Mr. Mix went on: "Many citizens of non-Right to Work states like Delaware, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin have taken note of the job, income and domestic population trends and launched efforts to pass state Right to Work laws of their own.

"But the data also speak strongly in favor of passing a national Right to Work law.

"And experience shows as well that it would be smart politics for Right to Work proponents to seek recorded votes on S.1301 and H.R.697 this year.

"For decades, whenever the Right to Work issue has been on the table at election time, freedom-loving candidates have benefited and pro-forced unionism candidates have been harmed.

"This has been true regardless of whether the issue was put on the table by pro-Right to Work elected officials

seeking to expand freedom, or by Big Labor politicians seeking to further restrict individual worker freedom."

Self-avowedly pro-Right to Work politicians must remember, cautioned Mr. Mix, that freedom-loving citizens want them to fight not just to thwart the advance of compulsory unionism, but also, whenever possible, to roll it back.

Amendment Strategy Could Bring About Recorded Votes On Forced-Dues Repeal

Throughout the 2007-2008 Congress, the Committee will be working with congressional allies to push for floor votes on S.1301 and H.R.697, either as free-standing legislation or, more likely, as amendments.

Mr. Mix urged Committee members everywhere to contact Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) at 202-224-2541 and House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) at 202-225-6205 regarding this legislation.

"If GOP leaders fail to push for votes on the Right to Work issue, it is almost inevitable that Big Labor really will solidify its control over Congress in 2008," he concluded. 📌



CREDIT: FOX NEWS CHANNEL

Over the public airwaves and in private meetings with pro-Right to Work members of Congress,

Committee President Mark Mix is making the case for recorded votes on forced-dues repeal legislation.