

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

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Right to Work Committee Prepares Counterattack *New TV Ad Campaign Can Put Big Labor Politicians on the Defensive*

Thanks to the efforts of National Right to Work Committee members across the country, the Big Labor politicians who have been calling the shots on Capitol Hill over the past year-and-a-half are now in danger of losing control over the public debate on what changes are needed in federal labor policy.

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.

"But Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi

can't stop ordinary citizens from petitioning their elected officials to support S.1301 and H.R.697," Mr. Mix added.

"And the pressure is mounting on more and more members of the Reid/Pelosi Democratic caucus in Washington, D.C., as well as on Big Labor-appeasing Republicans in Congress, to support forced-dues repeal."

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 92 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 study after study shows that forced unionism is correlated with lower real, spendable incomes for employees, their families, and other citizens."

Mr. Mix first pointed to the interstate cost-of-living index prepared by the Missouri Economic Research



CREDIT: ED SUBA JR., AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Americans overwhelmingly support the Right to Work without being forced to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted

union. This year, the Committee intends to mobilize millions of such freedom-loving citizens.

See Counterattack page 2

New TV Ads Part of Counterattack

Continued from page 1

and Information Center and appearing in Congressional Quarterly's *State Fact Finder 2007*.

It shows that, on average, the cost of living in the 28 forced-dues states in 2006 was nearly 21% higher than it was in the 22 Right to Work states.

Real Disposable Per Capita Income Clearly Higher In Right to Work States

And, just as in earlier years, the average cost of living-adjusted disposable per capita income in Right to Work states was higher than in non-Right to Work states in 2006. In Right to Work states as a whole it was \$31,746, roughly \$1900 more than the forced-dues state average of \$29,803.

"And these findings largely replicate those of a household-income study by Dr. Barry Poulson, an economics professor at the University of Colorado and past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association," Mr. Mix commented.

Dr. Poulson found that, when the number of households in each metro area is factored into the equation, the average cost of living-adjusted household income in Right to Work state metro areas in 2002 was \$50,751, compared to \$46,313 in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

Still another household-income study was prepared by Dr. James Bennett, a professor for the Nobel Prize-winning Economics Department at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and the editor of the *Journal of Labor Research*.

Dr. Bennett found that, in 1999, the cost of living-adjusted mean income for households with two employed persons in Right to Work state metro areas was \$64,425, nearly \$1200 higher than the average of \$63,236 in non-Right to Work state metro areas.

National Right to Work Law Important For Lasting, Nationwide Prosperity

Mr. Mix added that enactment of national Right to Work legislation within the next few years is important for securing lasting, nationwide prosperity:

"Wherever union officials have forced-dues privileges, they wield those privileges to cultivate a 'hate the boss' mentality to cement their power over employees.

"But while employees and businesses located in non-Right to Work states suffer the most as a result of pro-forced unionism federal labor law, all Americans are hurt.

"The vast majority of Right to Work state-based companies have customers and suppliers whose efficiency and profitability are being undermined by compulsory unionism. Misguided federal labor policies lower living standards in all 50 states."

By tossing out the unnecessary ballast of compulsory union dues and fees, argued Mr. Mix, S.1301 and H.R.697 could help bring about sustained improvements in incomes and earnings in every region of the country.

Politicians Who Are Obstructing Right to Work Need to Feel More Heat

But before Right to Work legislation can be passed, dozens of members of Congress must either change course and begin supporting it, or be replaced by others who will.


To turn up the pressure on wavering members of Congress, the Committee is preparing over the course of the next few months to mobilize millions of Americans through carefully targeted mailings and through the use of its two phone centers in the Virginia Beach area.

To raise the pressure even higher on a handful of key elected officials, the Committee is also taping a set of television ads and raising funds to put them on the air.

"The Committee is simultaneously pursuing two important goals," explained Mr. Mix.

"We are mobilizing our members to raise the heat on the Democratic majority leadership in both chambers of Congress to stop blocking roll-call votes on Right to Work. And we are fighting to see that, when such roll calls occur, Right to Work measures will receive as many votes as possible."

To give Right to Work members a clearer idea of what the Committee is trying to accomplish, this month Mr. Mix has sent many of them a special mailing that includes a video with samples of the TV ads the Committee wants to run.

Committee members who receive this mailing are urged to review the sample ads at the nearest opportunity and do whatever they can to help put them on the air. 



CREDIT: LANDRIEU.SENATE.GOV

The Committee is now raising funds to air TV ads that could increase the pressure on key politicians like Sen.

Mary Landrieu (D-La.) to stop carrying water for union bigwigs and compulsory unionism.

Public-Safety Union Monopolists Lose Ground

Right to Work Resistance to H.R.980/S.2123 Continues to Mount

It's now been nearly a year since the U.S. House of Representatives rubber-stamped H.R.980, one of the top items on Big Labor's legislative wish list in the current Congress.

And as this month's Right to Work Newsletter goes to press, union lobbyists remain dangerously close to ramming H.R.980's U.S. Senate companion, S.2123, through Congress's upper chamber.

However, thanks largely to the persistent and ever-intensifying opposition of the 2.2 million members of the National Right to Work Committee, H.R.980/S.2123, Big Labor's so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act," currently appears to be losing momentum.

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

H.R.980/S.2123 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.

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.

Republican Congressmen Who Backed H.R.980 Regret Their Votes

After hearing again and again, month after month, from pro-Right to Work constituents, a number of GOP congressmen who voted last spring to pass H.R.980 through the House are now revisiting their position.

Congressmen Dan Burton (R-Ind.) and Walter Jones (R-N.C.) have recently told Right to Work leaders that they were lied to by their colleagues and did not properly understand H.R.980 when they voted for it, and that they now regret their votes.



CREDIT: DAVID COATES/THE DETROIT NEWS

Firefighters union czar Harold Schaitberger is determined to ram through Congress legislation that would

federalize his and other public-safety union officials' monopoly-bargaining privileges.

In addition to Mr. Burton and Mr. Jones, who have revised their views of the legislation, there are undoubtedly other congressmen who took note of a February primary contest in Maryland.

GOP Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, who had first voted for H.R.980, then rebuffed Committee entreaties that he change his position, was defeated by 100% pro-Right to Work primary challenger Andy Harris.

During the weeks before the Maryland primaries, the Committee mobilized more than 26,000 Right to Work supporters across Mr. Gilchrest's home district to insist that he stop appeasing the union hierarchy.

"Because H.R.980 and S.2123 don't directly attack private-sector employees and small businesses, all too many GOP congressmen who usually support Right to Work were led to believe this legislation was a bone they could throw to Big Labor," commented Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"Now both congressmen and senators are learning that, in reality, this legislation is a deeply unpopular forced-unionism power grab. Consequently, union bosses are finding that the police/fire monopoly-bargaining scheme is much more difficult to ram through Congress than they once expected."

Mr. Stafford underscored the need for defeating the legislation: "Historically, states enacting monopoly-

bargaining laws have experienced dramatic increases in public-safety strikes, both legal and illegal."

Right to Work Committee And Its Members Will Keep Turning up the Heat

"The fact is, even where such strikes are illegal, union bosses simply keep employees out on strike until all Big Labor demands are met, including amnesty for the illegal strike," he explained.

"Enactment of H.R.980 or S.2123 would be disastrous, not just for independent-minded public-safety officers and Right to Work advocates, but also for taxpayers and citizens who depend on their local police and fire departments.

"That's why the Committee and its members can't afford to rest on our laurels for a minute. We need to keep turning up the heat in preparation for a Senate showdown over S.2123 some time this year.

"The Committee will continue mobilizing more and more freedom-loving Americans to get involved in the campaign against H.R.980/S.2123 through its direct-mail program and phone banks.

"I urge all Right to Work members to maintain and expand their support, both lobbying and financial, for our campaign. Working together, we can stop the federalization of public-safety monopoly bargaining this year." 📢

Charlton Heston: Right to Work's 'Epic Hero'

Former Union Leader Defied Big Labor, Opposed Force Unionism

"I've played men like Tom Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Lincoln -- all of them heroes defending American freedom. There are Americans still carrying on that fight in Idaho, where citizens want the Right to Work without being forced to join a union.

"Now, as a former union president, I believe Americans should be free to choose. We're all watching, Idaho. Strike a blow for freedom. Vote yes on Referendum One."

With these words, which he not only spoke, but also coauthored, in the spring of 1986, Hollywood icon Charlton Heston became a public champion of the Right to Work cause.

Mr. Heston taped his first TV advertisement opposing Big Labor's multimillion-dollar attempt that year to overturn, in a statewide fall referendum, Idaho's then-fledgling Right to Work law while standing in front of a camera crew outside his Beverly Hills home.

Mr. Heston's pro-Right to Work TV and radio ads aired extensively in Idaho starting in June 1986, and he also signed a nationwide fundraising letter for the Idaho effort.

Because the Academy Award-

winning star of *The Ten Commandments*, *Ben Hur*, and *Evil Under the Sun* had already earned a reputation as a straight shooter, his visible support was very effective in refuting Big Labor's vicious anti-Right to Work campaign.

In November 1986, Idaho voters upheld their Right to Work law by a solid 54% to 46% margin.

Union Zealots Denounced Mr. Heston's 'Despicable' Pro-Right to Work Efforts

Anti-Right to Work zealots in the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) union, which Mr. Heston had previously served, as board member and president, for a decade, were infuriated by what one labeled as his "despicable" and "renegade" efforts for Idaho.

The union hierarchy officially censured Mr. Heston, and even threatened to remove his lifetime SAG membership and sue him, for daring to speak out against compulsory unionism.

But Mr. Heston was not deterred in the least from speaking out for the cause he passionately supported.

Over the course of the next decade, until he became head of an unrelated single-issue lobbying group and could therefore no longer be an effective public spokesman for any other cause, Mr. Heston went to bat for Right to Work supporters, again and again.

In 1991, for example, Mr. Heston joined with then-National Right to Work Committee President Reed Larson at a Washington, D.C., press conference to oppose the George H.W. Bush Administration's nomination of Big Labor stooge Mary Cracraft for a second term on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Thanks largely to Mr. Heston, Ms. Cracraft's reappointment was subsequently blocked in the Senate.

In 1993, Mr. Heston cut a series of 27 targeted TV and radio ads to help the Committee stop the Ted Kennedy Pushbutton Strike Bill, which would have forced workers to strike and, ultimately, to pay union dues.

And in late 1995, Mr. Heston cut yet another ad that helped the Committee convince then-U.S. Senate Majority Leader and GOP presidential primary candidate Bob Dole (Kan.) to pledge to hold a hearing and a recorded, roll-call floor vote on national Right to Work legislation.

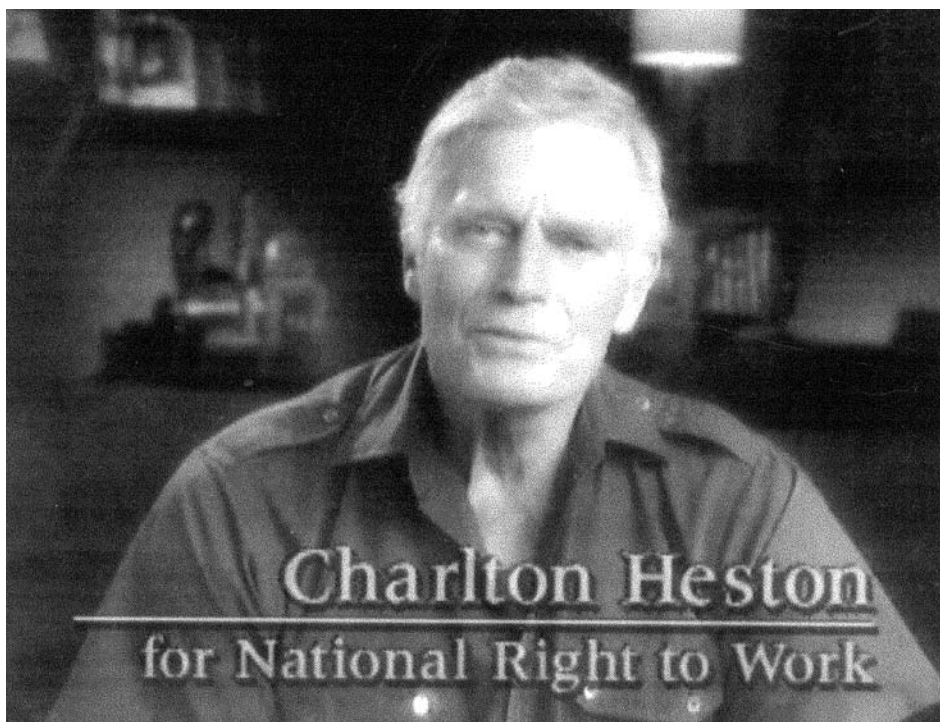
Mark Mix: Freedom-Loving Americans Have Lost a 'True Friend'

Early last month, Mr. Heston died at his Beverly Hills home. Although a cause was not given, he had publicly announced in 2002 that he was suffering from symptoms of Alzheimer's.

"Committee members and supporters will always be grateful to Charlton Heston, the Right to Work movement's epic hero," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"Among his many contributions, his roles in the Idaho referendum victory in 1986, the defeat of the Pushbutton Strike Bill in 1994, and the historic securing of a recorded Senate vote on national Right to Work legislation in 1996 will especially be remembered.

"Not just Right to Work members, but all freedom-loving Americans, have lost a true friend in Charlton Heston." 📖



In 1993, Charlton Heston cut a series of targeted TV ads to help the National Right to Committee stop the Pushbutton

Strike Bill, which would have forced workers to strike and, ultimately, to pay union dues.

'Tell Tara You're Going to Be a Little Late'

Union Thugs Allegedly Used DMV Data to Plan Attacks on Victims

A new federal indictment charging a dozen union officials and union militants in western New York with extortion and racketeering furnishes clear evidence of how, all too often, Big Labor plans and executes violence and vandalism in order to secure forced-unionism privileges.

The eight-count indictment was issued on the afternoon of April 8, hours after federal and state law enforcement agents had arrested Mark Kirsch, president of the Buffalo-based Local 17 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE/AFL-CIO) and 11 of his henchmen.

According to the indictment, as summarized by the AP, union agents "caused more than \$1 million in damage to more than 40 pieces of heavy machinery by pouring sand and grinding compound into the oil systems, breaking windows, destroying tires and cutting fuel lines."

Big Labor Violence Has 'Deprived Western New York Of Vibrant Economic Growth'

The vandalism, threats and violence went on for years and systematically targeted independent construction companies and employees who wished to remain union-free.

Union officials first secured an account with the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), putatively so that they could ensure Local 17-owned vehicles "were properly registered and inspected."

But Local 17 bosses or their agents allegedly used the account, time and again, to run potential victims' license plates through the DMV database to obtain names and addresses of workers and their spouses.

Union agents then exploited this information to intimidate independent workers and employers into submission.

For example, charged the indictment, in July 2005 union organizer James Minter advised a worker entering a work site, "Tell Tara you're going to be a little late tonight," referring to the worker's wife.

Another union organizer, Carl Larson, allegedly admitted that tire slashings, stabbings, and beatings were all Local 17 "organizing" tactics.



Employees and owners of small construction firms in Buffalo have long felt like they were living in a James



Cagney movie, with IUOE union bosses playing both the Cagney and the Edward G. Robinson roles.

When a business owner asked him what the "positives" were of recognizing a union whose agents had stabbed him in the neck and slashed his tires, Mr. Larson reportedly replied: "The positives are that the negatives you are complaining about would go away."

Of course, such Big Labor thuggery ultimately victimizes far more people than just the employees and businesses who are directly targeted.

Union boss-orchestrated violence has "deprived western New York of vibrant economic growth" by frightening away all kinds of job-creating businesses, charged Buffalo FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Laurie Burnett.

Indicted Union Officials' Lawyer Suggests His Clients Deserve 'Medals!'

After vandalism and harassment persuaded managers of a project at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., to remove a nonunion contractor from the site, Local 17 President Kirsch, now on "unpaid leave" while he awaits trial, allegedly said, with satisfaction: "We did what we had to do."

Local 17 union lawyer Mark Furlong smugly suggests that Mr. Kirsch and his henchmen each deserve "a medal" for their success in corralling workers into unions over the years.

"It's not so surprising that many union bosses like Mark Kirsch think they're above the law," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"In all 50 states, including Right to Work states, federal labor policy grants them the unique, monopolistic privilege to 'represent' employees who don't wish to join the union as well as those who do in contract negotiations with the employer.

"Having wielded their monopoly-bargaining privilege for decades, union bosses now take it for granted.

"And they think, if under federal law they have monopoly power to negotiate the terms and conditions of employment for union nonmembers, why shouldn't they also have the power to tell employees of nonunion firms what do?

"And why shouldn't they be allowed to get rough if employees of nonunion firms don't obey?

"I'm relieved that, in recent years, federal and state prosecutors in western New York have finally begun to crack down on Big Labor violence and try to bring to justice the rogue hierarchies of unions like IUOE Local 17.

"But the long-term remedy for Big Labor lawlessness is to take away union bosses' federal monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues privileges. And that's a job that Congress is obliged to do." 📣

Kennedy Measure Targets Graduate Students

Forced Union Dues 'One of the Chief Perils to Academic Freedom'

Big Labor politicians evidently never take a respite from their quest to find new groups of Americans who can be corralled into unions.

Just last month, union-label U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.) identified graduate students at private universities as yet another class of people who must not be denied the "benefits" of being forced to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent and pay union dues.

Legislation (S.2891 and H.R.5838) introduced by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Miller on April 17 would set up industrial-style unions with "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining power over graduate students who work part-time as teaching assistants, research assistants, or proctors.

Graduate students have for decades been exempt from the federal labor-law provisions that authorize union monopoly bargaining because the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has regarded their jobs as TA's, RA's and proctors as primarily a means of advancing their education, not of earning a living.

(Over the past 34 years, the NLRB has deviated from this view only once, in a

precedent-smashing 2000 decision by the Clinton Board that was itself overturned just four years later.)

But S.2891/H.R.5838 would reclassify graduate students who earn a stipend for work that also trains them for an academic career as "employees" so that they can be forced to accept a particular union as their monopoly-bargaining agent in their dealings with the university.

Effectively, that would pave the way for union officials to force millions of now-independent graduate students to fork over dues or fees to an unwanted union, or be denied the right to work as TA's, RA's, or proctors.

At a University, Forced Dues Violate 'the Right To Work With One's Mind'

As the late world-renowned political philosopher and author Russell Kirk, editor of *The University Bookman*, once said, the imposition of forced union dues at a university is "one of the chief perils to academic freedom" because it violates "the right to work with one's mind."

In a February 1977 article for *National Review* magazine, he elaborated that, while the right of all employees "not to pay tribute to a union is important in itself," the stakes are especially high in the field of education.

Forced unionism is deeply detrimental to the quality of educational institutions, argued Dr. Kirk, because it empowers self-serving union officials to divert resources from serious subjects like literature and physics in order to gratify their own appetites.

Unfortunately, a number of private colleges and universities across the country have since ignored Dr. Kirk's sound counsel and succumbed to Big Labor demands for the forced unionization of professors and other full-time employees.

At public universities today, faculty union monopolies are even mandated by law in several states.

And university employees are increasingly subject to monopoly-bargaining control by the hierarchies of industrial unions, such as the United Autoworkers (UAW), that have no historical connection whatsoever to higher education.

Real Reform Would Abolish Monopoly Bargaining, Forced Union Dues


"Genuine reform would eliminate monopoly bargaining and forced union dues in higher education," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"Real reform would also give higher-education employees who don't wish to join a union the option of negotiating their contracts individually, or through an alternative union.

"But S.2891 and H.R.5838 would instead extend pro-forced unionism policies to cover tens of thousands of grad students who have been exempt from them up to now. This is a big step in the wrong direction."

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee and its 2.2 million members would do everything necessary to ensure that S.2891 and H.R.5838 do not become law.

Committee legislative staffers are already contacting members of both chambers of Congress to urge them to oppose this legislation on all votes.

Committee members who wish to reinforce the message may do so by using the Capitol Hill switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121, to get in touch with their U.S. representatives and senators. 



Union-label Sen. Ted Kennedy and Congressman George Miller are determined to see that graduate students

receive the "benefit" of being forced to accept an unwanted union as their monopoly-bargaining agent.

CREDIT: [HTTP://HELP.SENATE.GOV](http://HELP.SENATE.GOV)

Iowans Again Defeat Forced-Union-Fee Scheme

But Big Labor Governor May Hand Union Dons a 'Consolation Prize'

Over the past year, union lobbyists in Des Moines employed every conceivable tactic to ram through the Hawkeye State Legislature one or more measures to gut or repeal Iowa's Right to Work law.

Union bosses even threatened to recruit and bankroll primary challengers to run against Democratic legislators who refused to back forced union fees.

However, the National Right to Work Committee and its grass-roots ally, the Des Moines-based Iowans for Right to Work Committee, energized freedom-loving Iowans to fight back every step of the way.

And last month the Big Labor politicians who run the Iowa House finally backed down and adjourned the 2008 session without ever bringing up for a vote S.F.413, a forced-union-fee bill that had been rammed through the state Senate in 2007.

Battle Will Continue During Fall Campaigns

Not taking anything for granted, the National Committee legislative department kept the heat on until the Legislature finally called it quits in the wee hours of the morning on Saturday, April 26.

And the battle to save Iowa's Right to Work law is far from won even now.

"Big Labor remains grimly determined to destroy Iowa's popular Right to Work law," explained National Committee President Mark Mix.

"Although, thanks to Right to Work supporters' dedication, the union bosses failed to realize their long-sought objective in 2007 or 2008, they intend to grab enough additional House seats in this fall's elections to assure their victory in 2009.

"That's why the National Committee, along with the Iowans for Right to Work Committee, is making a major commitment to ensure Iowa's Right to Work law is not gutted or weakened in any way.

"We succeeded in our first aim of blocking S.F.413 until the Legislature went home in April. Now we must highlight the Right to Work issue, first in the legislative primary elections June 3, then in the general elections this fall.



CREDIT: WWW.CHETCULVER.COM

Chet Culver has been unable to gut Iowans' Right to Work, but may yet expand union monopoly bargaining.

"That way, Iowa voters will know which of their legislative candidates will protect the Right to Work law, and which ones support union coercion.

"We're confident that, if freedom-loving citizens across the state have access to this information this year, Big Labor's campaign to complete its takeover of the state Legislature will fail."

Will Expanded Monopoly-Bargaining Power Be Big Labor's 'Consolation Prize'?

While S.F.413 is now dead, the fate of a second Big Labor power grab in the 2008 Iowa Legislature remains unresolved as this month's Newsletter goes to press.

In March, union-label Speaker Pat Murphy (D-Dubuque) and Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (D-Council Bluffs) steam-rolled through the Legislature H.F.2645.

This special-interest measure would greatly expand the scope of the monopoly power Iowa teacher and other government union bosses already wield to negotiate with public employers over employees' pay, benefits and working conditions.

In addition to Right to Work supporters and independent-minded public employees, school and other local government officials, Republicans and Democrats alike, overwhelmingly oppose H.F.2645 because it would foment strife in labor-management relations.

Well aware of the strong opposition among elected officials of his own party to H.F.2645, Democratic Gov. Chet Culver, normally a Big Labor cheerleader, voiced serious concerns about this bill as it swept through the Legislature.

For that reason, Mr. Gronstal delayed sending it to the governor until late last month. The governor now has until May 25 to decide whether he will sign or veto H.F.2645, and he is still publicly wavering over what he will do.

"Expanded monopoly-bargaining power should not be Iowa union bosses' 'consolation prize,'" commented Mr. Mix, asking Right to Work supporters to call the governor at 515-281-5211 and urge him to veto H.F.2645.

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Families Flee Compulsory-Unionism States

'Right to Work States Are Simply Better For Raising Children'

Every parent knows children are expensive. But for society as a whole, a declining population of children can be far more expensive, and dangerous, than a rising one.

A sustained and substantial decline in a country's population of children almost inevitably means that, over time, fewer and fewer workers will be responsible for taking care of more and more retirees.

The trend in the U.S. as a whole is not so dire: While the elderly constitute by far the fastest growing age bloc here, the number of school-aged (5-17) children has grown slightly in recent years.

From 2000 to 2006, the most recent year for which state-by-state U.S. Census data are available, the number of five- to 17-year-olds nationwide increased by 200,000, from 53.12 million to 53.32 million.

However, many individual states have recently begun to endure European-style declines in their school-aged populations.

Forced-Dues States Suffer Aggregate Loss of Nearly 700,000 Schoolchildren

From 2000 to 2006, nine states suffered declines of 40,000 or more apiece in their total K-8 school-aged populations. And, excluding Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Louisiana, all of these states have one thing in common: They don't have a Right to Work law on the books.

Over the same period, the school-aged population of the 21 Right to Work states (excluding Oklahoma, which adopted the 22nd state Right to Work law in 2001) increased by 898,000, or nearly five percent.

Meanwhile, the total number of five- to 17-year-olds in the 28 non-Right to Work states fell by 680,000.

Why does the number of schoolchildren keep rising in Right to Work states, which protect employees from being fired for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an unwanted union, even as it falls in states that do not protect employees from forced unionism?

The reason is not immigration from abroad, which affects both Right to Work states and non-Right to Work states more or less equally.

Biggest Gainers and Losers of School-Aged Children, 2000-2006

Gaining Schoolchildren

Texas*	307
Florida*	198
Georgia*	179
Arizona*	168
North Carolina*	119
California	92
Nevada*	85
Utah*	34

Losing Schoolchildren

New York	-157
Pennsylvania	-114
Louisiana*	-113
Ohio	-98
Michigan	-84
Wisconsin	-62
Minnesota	-45
Massachusetts	-42

Right to Work states are asterisked.

Figures denote population on July 1, 2006 minus population on July 1, 2000, in thousands.

States listed are the biggest gainers and losers in absolute, not percentage, terms.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

Seven of the eight states enjoying the biggest increases in their school-aged population are Right to Work states.

Except for Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Louisiana, none of the biggest losers has a Right to Work law.

The real reason is that parents and prospective parents are moving in droves to Right to Work states. They find these states, with their generally higher real incomes and lower living costs, to be more attractive places to live.

"Right to Work states are simply better places for raising children," commented Matthew Leen, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Even data furnished in a 2003 American Federation of Teachers union survey showed that on average living costs, excluding all taxes, are roughly 15% higher in non-Right to Work states than in Right to Work states.

"Study after study that factors in cost-of-living differences shows that, on average, employees' real earnings are higher in Right to Work states.

"For example, a National Institute for Labor Relations Research study using a cost-of-living index found in Congressional Quarterly's *State Fact Finder 2006* found that average real weekly earnings are slightly more than 5% higher in Right to Work states than in non-Right to Work states.

"And for couples that are relying on a single income or cutting back their working hours in order to raise children, the Right to Work advantage is especially salient."

National Right to Work Law Is Prescription For Incipient 'Eurosclerosis'

"Fortunately for forced-unionism states, there is a cure for the incipient 'Eurosclerosis' from which many of them are suffering," continued Mr. Leen.

"The prescription is legislation that would strike all provisions currently authorizing forced union dues and fees from federal law, known as the National Right to Work Act. It is now pending in the U.S. Senate and House as S.1301 and H.R.697."

Mr. Leen urged Committee members nationwide to contact their senators and congressmen through the Congressional Switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121, and urge them to do everything they can to ensure that this legislation is brought up for recorded floor votes this year. 