

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 5

www.nrtwc.org

May 2008

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.

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New TV Ads Part of Counterattack

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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.