

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.



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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." 📢