

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.



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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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Written and Distributed by:

National Right to Work Committee®

8001 Braddock Road
Springfield, Va. 22160

E-mail: Members@NRTW.org

Mark Mix President
Reed Larson Exec. Cmte. Chairman
Stephen Goodrick Vice President
Matthew Leen Vice President
Doug Stafford Vice President
Stanley Greer Newsletter Editor
Editorial comments only: stg@nrtw.org

Contact the Membership Department by phoning 1-800-325-RTWC (7892) or (703) 321-9820, or faxing (703) 321-7143, if you wish to:

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