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Committee Blocks Government Union Power Grab *Union Bigwigs Vow to Intensify Senate Arm-Twisting Campaign*

Big Labor politicians are clearly well aware that the American people do not support union bosses' step-by-step scheme to establish a new federal mandate imposing union "exclusive representation" (monopoly bargaining) over all state and local government employees nationwide.

Nor does the public support phase one of the union bosses' scheme, pending legislation that would corral into unions state and local firefighters and other public-safety employees across the country.

So early last month, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and his cohorts tried to sneak this legislation through their chamber while attracting as little public attention as possible.

On May 7, pro-forced unionism Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) filed a so-called "cloture motion" to quick-snap floor

action on H.R.980, the U.S. House-passed version of the police/fire monopoly-bargaining legislation.

Just six days later, after an overwhelming majority of senators went along with Mr. Dodd, Mr. Reid filed a second "cloture" motion to prevent Senate Right to Work allies from waging any substantial debate on H.R.980 before it was rushed through the chamber.

And Mr. Reid and Mr. Dodd undoubtedly would have succeeded in securing a Senate green light for a radical expansion of government union bosses' monopoly-bargaining privileges without facing major resistance -- but for the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee and its 2.2 million members.

On May 8, within just hours after Mr. Dodd had filed his motion to bring H.R.980 up for consideration on the

Senate floor, Committee legislative leaders directed the Committee's phone operation to begin mobilizing opposition across the country.

'National Right to Work ... [Is] Working Hard To Kill This Bill'

In a May 9 mass e-mail message to state and local International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) union bosses, IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger recognized that "National Right to Work Committee" members as well as members of the League of Cities were "working hard to kill this bill."

Meanwhile, Right to Work legislative staffers visited the offices of wavering senators to discuss with them how H.R.980 and its Senate counterpart, S.2123, would harm independent-minded public-safety employees, citizens who depend on their services, and taxpayers.

By Thursday afternoon, May 15, Mr. Reid realized that for now, at least, he lacks the 60 votes he needs to bring H.R.980 up for a final vote while preventing pro-Right to Work amendments from being considered and voted on.

At the same time, he also apparently realized that allowing debates and votes on pro-Right to Work amendments, even if those amendments failed, would be very dangerous for Big Labor senators holding potentially vulnerable seats.

Rather than force union-label Senate Democrats like Mary Landrieu (La.), Max Baucus (Mont.), and Tim Johnson (S.D.) to jeopardize their 2008 reelection bids by casting high-profile



CREDIT: SUSAN WALSH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Union bigwig Harold Schaitberger (left) was the only prominent endorser of Sen. Chris Dodd's quixotic 2008 presidential

bid. Now Mr. Dodd is trying to reward Mr. Schaitberger by helping him corral firefighters into unions.

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Union Monopolists Incite Strikes

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votes in support of forced unionism now, Mr. Reid decided to pull H.R.980 from the Senate floor.

Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Monopoly Bargaining

Of course, Big Labor Senate Democrats are virtually certain to try again this year to ram H.R.980/S.2123 through their chamber. And Mr. Schaitberger continues to thunder that the IAFF brass "will not rest until this legislation is passed . . ."

H.R.980 and S.2123 would force countless policemen, firefighters and EMT's to accept as their monopoly-bargaining agent a union they personally never voted for, and want nothing to do with.

Moreover, H.R.980 and S.2123 do NOT protect the Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues or fees either of the public-safety employees upon whom Congress is imposing monopoly bargaining, or of the public-safety employees who are already subject to it.

"Americans overwhelmingly oppose monopoly bargaining, period," noted Committee President Mark Mix.

"The public certainly has no interest in backing legislation designed to help Big Labor grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over hundreds of thousands of additional employees."

Mr. Mix cited a recent scientific nationwide survey conducted by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000.

The poll found that 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe that employees in unionized businesses should retain the right to bargain for themselves. Just 17% of regular voters believe employees should not have that right, while 2% are unsure.

"Forcing union nonmembers to accept public-safety union officials as their monopoly-bargaining agent is what H.R.980 and S.2123 are all about," explained Mr. Mix.

"Any state law or local ordinance authorizing public-safety union bosses to bargain on behalf of their members only will get tossed in the scrapheap if either measure becomes law.

"This legislation simply can't

withstand public scrutiny. And Harry Reid seems to realize that."

Mr. Mix added: "On top of the fact that the vast majority of Americans oppose monopoly bargaining in principle, there are other serious concerns about S.2123/H.R.980.

"Historically, states enacting such monopoly-bargaining laws have experienced dramatic increases in public-sector strikes, both legal and illegal.

"Moreover, since monopoly bargaining also sharply increases government union bosses' political power, politicians courting Big Labor political support have regularly made state and local taxpayers foot the bill for such strikes."

Right to Work Amendment Exposes Public-Safety Union Bosses' True Intentions

"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," Mr. Mix continued.

"That's why the National Right to Work Committee and its members can't afford to rest on our laurels for a minute. We will keep turning up the heat in preparation for the next Senate showdown over this legislation."

As part of the Committee's strategy to ensure that H.R.980/S.2123 is ultimately defeated, Committee officers are now insisting that, if the Senate is

to vote on this legislation, it must also consider the National Right to Work Amendment sponsored by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.).

Battle For H.R.980/S.2123 Is 'Largely a Battle For Forced Union Dues'

"Unlike H.R.980/S.2123 itself, Sen. DeMint's amendment would mark a sharp turn in the right direction for federal labor policy," explained Mr. Mix.


"Just like the free-standing national Right to Work measures now before Congress, the DeMint Amendment would repeal all provisions in federal labor law that currently authorize the firing of employees for refusal to pay dues to an unwanted union.

"Of course, top union bosses, including public-sector union kingpins like Harold Schaitberger, are certain to oppose the DeMint Right to Work Amendment with all their might, and order their puppet politicians to oppose it as well.

"And this will demonstrate clearly to the American people that Big Labor's battle for H.R.980/S.2123 is largely a battle for forced union dues. At that point, it will be much less difficult to stop the power grab.

"Thanks largely to all the fine work done by Right to Work members and staffers in 2007, union lobbyists are facing far stiffer Senate resistance to H.R.980 and S.2123 than they once expected.

"Now 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." 



South Carolina's Jim DeMint and several other pro-Right to Work senators provided critical support for the

Committee's successful effort to prevent public-safety union bosses' H.R.980 from being rubber-stamped.

CREDIT: DEMINT.SENATE.GOV

Right to Work Issue Energizes State Elections

Citizens Ask Legislative, Executive Candidates to Go on Record

Freedom-loving citizens in more than half-a-dozen states that have yet to pass a Right to Work law and in several current Right to Work states are raising the heat this summer on the candidates who are campaigning to be their governors, lieutenant governors, and state legislators.

Candidates in New Hampshire, Montana, Missouri and more than a dozen other states have already received or soon will receive Right to Work surveys asking them to take a stand on the issue.

And as Election Day approaches, identified pro-Right to Work citizens in each of the targeted states will be mobilized to send postcards, letters, and other messages to the campaign offices of candidates who resist answering their surveys.

Several state and regional Right to Work citizen groups, with the assistance of the National Right to Work Committee, are implementing the state Survey '08 program.

Since 2002, Employment Has Grown Over Twice as Fast in Right to Work States

Efforts to pass new Right to Work laws and to maintain existing ones are buoyed in part by federal data showing that the 22 states that already have Right to Work

statutes on the books are on average weathering the economic storms that commenced last year far better than are forced-union-dues states.

According to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 private-sector employment in Right to Work states grew nearly two-and-a-half times as fast, in percentage terms, as employment in non-Right to Work states.

And Right to Work states' job-growth advantage is an enduring trend.

Over the five years from 2002 to 2007, private-sector jobs in Right to Work states increased from 40.92 million to 44.85 million, or 9.6%. Meanwhile, jobs in forced-dues states increased by barely more than a third as much.

Over this entire period, forced-dues states' private-sector employment went from 67.27 million to 69.72 million, a gain of just 3.6%.

Right to Work Laws A Matter of Principle

As regular Newsletter readers know, Right to Work laws prohibit the firing of employees for refusal to pay forced dues or so-called "agency" fees to an unwanted union.

While the presence of a state Right to Work law is closely correlated with faster job and income growth, the Right

to Work is a matter of principle as well as economics.

Right to Work laws' fundamental purpose is to protect the employee's personal freedom of choice.

Over the years, public-opinion survey data have time and again reconfirmed the appeal of this principle.

For example, a scientific nationwide poll conducted in March 2004 by the Maryland-based firm Research 2000, known as a leader in the field, found that 79% of the probable voters in that year's presidential elections backed a person's right to hold a job "regardless of whether or not he or she belongs to a union."

Iowa Most Recent State To Defeat Scheme to Gut Right to Work Law

The overwhelming public support for Right to Work helps explain why Big Labor, despite spending countless millions of dollars to repeal or gut Right to Work laws since the mid-sixties, has failed time and again.

Most recently, union-label Democrat politicians in Right to Work Iowa cut a secret deal with the union brass in 2006 to push for reinstatement of forced union dues if the union political machine helped them take over the state government.

And in January 2007, Big Labor installed pro-forced unionism state Senate and House leaders and a pro-forced unionism governor. That spring, S.F.413, a forced-union-fee bill, was rammed through the state Senate.

However, due to intense Right to Work opposition, S.F.413 subsequently stalled out in the House and never came up for a final vote in 2007 or this year.

"The fact is, in every region of the country, most Americans know in their hearts that it's wrong to force any worker to pay union dues as a condition of employment," said Committee President Mark Mix.

"That's why I'm optimistic we can continue to protect Iowa's and other Right to Work laws and pass more such laws over the next few years.

"And state candidate survey programs are the best way to mobilize pro-Right to Work citizens for both offensive and defensive campaigns. They are a proven, effective way to counterbalance Big Labor's forced-dues war chest." 📞



National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix: State candidate survey programs are a "proven, effective

way to counterbalance Big Labor's forced-dues war chest" in both offensive and defensive campaigns.

Teacher Union Bosses Derail \$13.2 Million Grant

Washington State Loses Program to Encourage Advanced Coursework

Teacher union officials are frequently criticized for favoring the interests of teachers over those of schoolchildren, parents and taxpayers. But generally speaking, that criticism gives teacher union officials too much credit.

In reality, teacher union bosses' highest objective is Big Labor monopoly power to negotiate teacher contracts -- and union monopoly bargaining often results in lower pay for teachers.

One outrageous recent example of how teacher union monopolists harm many teachers as well as schoolchildren, parents, and taxpayers occurred in Washington State.

Last month, the Evergreen State lost out on a \$13.2 million, privately funded grant designed to "increase the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses in math, science and English," as the *Seattle Times* reported.

Teachers selected for the program, sponsored by the Texas-based National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), would have received intensive training and coaching as well as higher pay.

Following the successful blueprint they established in Texas, which prohibits teacher union monopoly bargaining, NMSI managers insisted that they be permitted to compensate teachers directly, and provide additional pay based on student achievement.

Teacher Union Bosses Could Have Requested a Waiver, But Chose Not to Do So

Just last year, an analysis by a Cornell University economist linked NMSI's program, including its approach to compensation, with a 30% rise in the number of students with high SAT and ACT scores.

Nevertheless, top bosses of the Washington Education Association (WEA/NEA) teacher union flat out refused even to consider allowing NMSI to compensate teachers directly.

And because of Washington State's law authorizing teacher union monopoly bargaining, there was absolutely nothing state elected officials or education appointees or local school boards could do to salvage the \$13.2 million NMSI grant without WEA union officials' acquiescence.

Steve Pulkkinen, WEA union bigwigs' handpicked negotiator over the grant,



CREDIT: WWW.STMARYSHF.COM

Teacher union monopoly bargaining has just cost many math, science, and English teachers in Washington State an

opportunity to get free extra training and earn higher pay while helping more students do advanced work.

publicly acknowledged that the union hierarchy could have requested a waiver to allow the grant to go through, but chose not to do so.

"The old adage, 'Monopoly has no use save abuse,' fits teacher union bosses in Washington State and around the country to a T," commented Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"It's Evergreen State legislators who gave WEA bosses monopoly-bargaining power in the first place, and it's legislators who are today responsible for perpetuating the monopoly-bargaining system.

"Politicians in Olympia who support union-boss special privileges, therefore, bear the primary responsibility for the NMSI debacle."

Forced Union Dues Add Insult to Injury

Mr. Mix added that the abuses of teacher union officials are even worse in Washington than in a number of other states with teacher union monopoly-bargaining laws on the books.

The reason is that Washington, like 22 other states, statutorily authorizes Big Labor to get teachers fired for refusal to join or pay dues to an unwanted union.


"After the teacher union hierarchy has scuttled a program that would have resulted in extra training and higher pay for many talented teachers, it adds insult to injury to force such teachers to pay union dues, or be fired, even though they choose not to be union members," said Mr. Mix.

"And that's exactly what will be happening in Washington State once the next school year begins in the fall.

"The National Right to Work Committee is determined to block the passage of any additional teacher monopoly-bargaining and forced-dues laws and also to roll back all such laws that are already in place.

"Due to the enormous entrenched power of teacher union bosses, this will be a long, difficult battle. But we are making progress.

"Just last spring, the Committee helped secure the enactment of a Utah law that, Right to Work attorneys believe, will effectively abolish monopoly bargaining in the Beehive State's public schools."

Mr. Mix vowed that the 2.2 million Committee members would do everything possible over the next few years to help other states emulate Utah by effectively or expressly prohibiting union monopoly bargaining in public education. 

Barack Obama Sees No Taint in Teamster Brass

Have Ongoing Mob Ties, Sleaze Really Escaped Candidate's Notice?

For decades, Inside-the-Beltway politicians have again and again sullied themselves and the American public's view of how Washington, D.C., works by turning a blind eye to Teamster union-boss corruption.

Undoubtedly, the best-known example was the Nixon Administration's 1971 decision to pardon Teamster czar Jimmy Hoffa well before he had served out his 13-year sentence for mail fraud and attempted bribery of a federal jury.

And even the current Administration publicly toyed from 2001 to 2003 with cutting an outrageous deal to end federal oversight over the Teamsters, even as major cases of ongoing rampant Teamster-boss corruption and orchestration of strike violence were making national news.

Due largely to the fierce and vocal opposition of citizens who support the rule of law, the Bush Justice Department never actually cut the deal.

However, in 2008 it is U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.), now strongly favored to win the Democratic presidential nomination, who is practicing the "old politics" of coddling corrupt Teamster officials in exchange for Teamster forced dues-funded "in-kind" campaign support.

Lifting Federal Oversight Of Teamsters Now Would 'Send the Wrong Message'

Last month, *Wall Street Journal* reporters Brody Mullins and Kris Maher uncovered the fact that Mr. Obama had won the Teamster hierarchy's endorsement for President in February after "privately telling the union he supported ending the strict federal oversight imposed to root out corruption."

At least one other 2008 Democratic presidential hopeful, 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards, also privately told Teamster kingpins he supported ending the federal oversight first instituted in 1989 as an alternative to a complete federal takeover of the mobbed-up union.

However, Sens. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.), the only viable presidential candidates left after Mr. Edwards dropped out of the race in February, both apparently refused to endorse terminating federal oversight over the Teamster brass.

Consequently, when current Teamster President Jim Hoffa (the son of Jimmy,



CREDIT: WWW.CHANGETOWIN.ORG

In order to get forced dues-funded campaign support from Teamster chief Jim Hoffa, Barack Obama is willing

to say that Mr. Hoffa has "cleaned up" the Teamster union hierarchy. Can Mr. Obama really believe that?

who disappeared in 1975 and is presumed dead) effusively declared he and his lieutenants would back Mr. Obama four months ago, the latter was the only major candidate left giving his secret backing to Mr. Hoffa's long-sought objective.

"It's difficult, if not impossible, to believe that Barack Obama has given his support, first privately and now publicly, to ending federal oversight of Teamster bosses because he sincerely believes Jim Hoffa has 'cleaned up' the union," noted National Right to Work Committee Vice President Doug Stafford.

"In Mr. Obama's adopted hometown of Chicago alone, for example, the secretary treasurer and three former staffers of Teamster Local 743 were indicted last September on charges of stealing a union election.

"The following month, the federal oversight board recommended that the top bosses of a second Windy City Teamster affiliate, Local 714, be removed from office for numerous alleged abuses.

"And John Coli, the Teamster official with whom the Obama campaign reportedly brokered the deal to end federal

oversight, has been publicly accused of interfering with efforts to crack down on mob-linked local union bosses.

"Federal oversight is obviously no panacea, and it doesn't get at the root of the problem. But rewarding Jim Hoffa by lifting federal oversight of the Teamsters now would send the wrong message to victims of Teamster-boss corruption."

Barack Obama's Politics Are 'Anything But New'

Mr. Stafford continued:

"Of course, the genuine way to break the cycle of corruption and violence in the Teamsters and other unions is passage of national Right to Work legislation.

"That would empower rank-and-file workers to fight union misdeeds by resigning and withholding their dues, without being fired as a consequence.

"But so far, Mr. Obama's position is opposition to the Right to Work as well as to Teamster federal oversight, that is, a flashing green light for union scofflaws. Such politics are anything but new." 📌

Right to Work Statute 'Directly Affected Me'

Nevada Law Helped Video Journalist Valerie Bischoff Launch Career

Valerie Bischoff, a 26-year-old Columbia University graduate student, has won the 2008 Ruggles journalism scholarship with an essay that relates both her personal and her principled reasons for opposing compulsory unionism.

Four years ago, after graduating with honors in Film and Digital Media from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Ms. Bischoff was eager to get a job, as she noted in her essay, "that would provide first-hand experience in video production."

Through both perseverance and good fortune, she was soon able to land just such a career-launching job at a major network-affiliated station in her hometown of Reno, Nev.

And two important reasons why she had this opportunity are that "Nevada is a Right to Work state" and the station that hired her is an "open shop."

Union bosses armed with monopoly-bargaining privileges frequently wield them to browbeat employers into acquiescing to restrictive work rules that deny new hires such as Ms. Bischoff the opportunity to take on demanding jobs, even if they are fully capable of handling them.

Furthermore, the cost of paying forced union dues and possibly even participating in strikes "would have been a hardship . . . and the cost could have compromised my ability to gain initial experience."



CREDIT: FULBRIGHTONLINE.ORG

Nevada's Right to Work law helped Valerie Bischoff get hands-on experience in video production.

Ms. Bischoff's essay concludes: "[T]he right to unionize is one of our fundamental freedoms. However, the validity of this right can only be realized if the members of the union are involved because of choice. Thankfully, in 22 states, the Right to Work law protects this freedom."

Scholarship Bolsters Right to Work Cause

"National Right to Work Committee members deserve credit for the fact that today nearly 40% of American private-sector workers are protected by state Right to Work laws," said Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"When Valerie Bischoff was born in 1982, fewer than a third of private-sector employees nationwide enjoyed Right to Work protection.

"And H.R.697/S.1301, legislation now pending in the U.S. House and Senate, would repeal the provisions in federal labor law that authorize forced union dues and fees.

"In a small but important way, the Ruggles scholarship is helping hasten the day when this legislation becomes law."

Established in 1974, the Ruggles scholarship is designed to encourage budding journalists to follow in the footsteps of the late journalist and Dallas *Morning News* editor William Ruggles. Since 1997, the scholarship has been administered by the National Institute for Labor Relations Research.

Mr. Ruggles coined the phrase "Right to Work" in a 1941 Labor Day editorial entitled "Magna Carta."

The scholarship, which has introduced thousands of future opinion makers to the important Right to Work issue, is open to all students majoring in journalism or mass communications.


Scholarship applications are accepted each year from January 1 to March 31.

Students From Around the Nation Competed For Right To Work Scholarship

This year, Valerie Bischoff's writing skills and her passion for freedom won her the \$2000 Ruggles scholarship, which will help her continue her graduate studies at Columbia in Film Writing and Directing.

Her career goal is to work as a video producer, creating longer format and "sweeps" style news pieces.

Students from nearly every state and many foreign countries submitted essays about the importance of protecting the Right to Work without being forced to pay union dues.

For copies of the 2008 prize-winning essay or "Magna Carta," write to Cathy Jones, care of the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, 5211 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va., 22151. You may also use clj@nrtw.org to reach her by e-mail. 

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Grant Doubles Your Money's Clout

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Inez Tenenbaum's grateful acceptance of huge sums of Big Labor PAC cash and "in-kind" support.

From mid-October until Election Day, the Committee waged a direct mail and ad program that called attention to Ms. Tenenbaum's reliance on union-boss sugar daddies and her refusal to support Right to Work legislation.

Just a few weeks after the Palmetto State Senate race had been characterized as a "tossup" by the oft-quoted *Cook Political Report*, pro-Right to Work Congressman Jim DeMint (R) scored a 10 percentage-point victory over Ms. Tenenbaum (D), the state education superintendent.

The morning after Election Night, a top Tenenbaum staffer mournfully recalled that the race had been "essentially tied" until the "Right to Work Committee [and other citizens' groups] came into the state with anti-Inez messages."

Survey Program Effective Even in a Hostile Political Climate

In 2006, powerful political winds were blowing Big Labor's way due to the unpopularity of the Bush Administration and a series of GOP congressional scandals.

Nevertheless, in stark contrast to Republicans who kowtowed to the union brass, the 114 GOP House candidates who sponsored national Right to Work legislation in 2005-2006 and sought reelection won 94% of their November 2006 contests.

Staunch Right to Work ally Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) was one of just a few House members who won after being viewed as "[not] much better than even money for reelection" by respected political pundit Stuart Rothenberg.

In the Senate, four of the six GOP incumbents who lost in 2006 were habitual forced-unionism appeasers. And the only GOP candidates to win close races, open-seat challenger Bob Corker (Tenn.) and Sen. John Kyl, pledged 100% support for Right to Work.

This fall, candidates with contrasting views on Right to Work will be pitted against one another in dozens of close Senate and House races.

And now a group of dedicated Right

to Work supporters is instituting a new "Matching Grant Challenge" for Committee members.

Until early July, this group will match all contributions to the Committee, dollar for dollar, up to \$650,000.

Right to Work members were informed about this opportunity to double the impact of their contributions in a recent letter from Committee President Mark Mix.

'America's Future Can Be Determined by Freedom-Loving Citizens'

"The new Matching Grant Challenge is a boon for the Committee's pro-Right to Work lobbying efforts," said Mr. Mix.

"It encourages Committee members to contribute now, when their contributions can do the most good.

"By taking the 'Matching Grant Challenge,' members can help ensure the Committee thwarts Big Labor's forced-dues funded drive to seize total control of Congress this fall.

"The Committee can accomplish this objective by implementing our multi-part plan to thwart the union bosses' 2008 election scheme.

"This plan involves an all-out media blitz in key states that will turn up the heat on pro-forced unionism candidates, as well as massive, targeted mailings that will detail how Big Labor's pet politicians have voted against Right to Work.

"In addition, Committee staffers intend to hold personal briefings for key editorial writers, friendly columnists, journalists and radio-talk show hosts who can help expose what Big Labor is up to.

"Thanks to our generous members, America's future can be determined by freedom-loving citizens, not power-grasping union bosses who build their empires on the backs of workers." 📌



By mobilizing millions of pro-Right to Work citizens and informing them about candidates' positions on forced

unionism, the federal Survey '08 can foil Big Labor's scheme to tighten its control of Congress.

Committee Plans to Mobilize Millions This Fall

New 'Matching Grant Challenge' Issued to Pay For Vital Program

With the 2008 U.S. Senate and House elections approaching, American employees' Right to Work is in peril.

Pro-forced unionism Democrats already control all the majority leadership positions and a majority of votes in both chambers of Congress.

And because a relative handful of union boss-appeasing Republicans are willing to side with them on union issues, Big Labor Democrats are also dangerously close to being able to ram through many of their forced-unionism power grabs with two-thirds or greater majorities in both chambers of Congress.

That would put the union hierarchy in a position to override any presidential veto of measures like the Police/Fire Monopoly-Bargaining Bill, which would corral state and local public-safety officers nationwide into unions.

Last summer, House members rubber-stamped the current House version (H.R.980) of this legislation.

And union lobbyists now appear to be within just a few votes of nailing down a two-thirds majority of Senate votes for H.R.980 or its Senate companion, S.2123.

Right to Work Campaign To Include TV and Radio Ads As Well as Targeted Mailings

In fact, unless freedom-loving Americans launch a successful counterattack this year, a whole slew of union-boss power grabs, including H.R.980/S.2123, so-called "card check" legislation, and perhaps even repeal of Taft-Hartley Section 14(b), which authorizes state Right to Work laws, could be enacted in 2009.

Of course, the danger of such a Big Labor clean sweep will be especially great if either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton becomes President next January.

At the same time, if the union bosses' 2008 power grab fails, next year one could actually see greater Right to Work strength in both chambers of Congress and a pro-Right to Work President willing to sign a national Right to Work law banning forced union dues in all 50 states.

With so much at stake, the National Right to Work Committee is preparing to mobilize millions of freedom-loving Americans to hold their House and Senate candidates accountable.

These citizens will help the Committee raise the pressure on dozens of targeted candidates either to pledge that, if they win on Election Day, they will support Right to Work 100% during their upcoming term in office, or face the consequences at the polls.

The Committee will get the word out through TV, radio and newspaper advertising as well as through massive, targeted mailings.

The Committee's candidate survey and citizen mobilization program, known as the federal Survey '08, is the linchpin of its efforts to defend the Right to Work in Congress.

Politicians Listen Better When Election Day Is Coming Fast Upon Them

Experience shows that candidates are much more likely to heed the vast majority of Americans who support Right to Work and pledge across-the-board opposition to forced unionism in the months leading up to Election Day -- not after they are safely elected or reelected.

And Big Labor candidates who stubbornly spurn pleas from pro-Right to Work citizens to change their position have again and again gone down to defeat as a consequence.

For example, Committee members' generous response to a special 2004 "Matching Grant Challenge" made by several dedicated supporters enabled the Committee to put a spotlight on South Carolina U.S. Senate hopeful



CREDIT: CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

This year's "Matching Grant Challenge" could lead to stormy re-election bids for politicians like Sen. Mary Landrieu

(D-La.), who have demonstrated their anti-Right to Work views through their voting records.

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