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'Disenchanted' With Big Labor Appeaser *In New Mexico, Primary Voters Say 'No' to Another Republican*

Last summer, when Big Labor was ramming its so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" through the U.S. House, dozens of GOP congressmen and women with strongly pro-Right to Work constituencies were led to believe this legislation was a bone they could throw to Big Labor.

Now more and more of these elected officials, along with their Big Labor-appeasing counterparts in the U.S. Senate, are learning that this legislation, numbered H.R.980 and S.2123 in the current Congress, is in reality a deeply unpopular forced-unionism power grab.

The latest Republican politician to learn this bitter lesson is New Mexico Congresswoman Heather Wilson.

After her home state's senior senator, Pete Domeneci (R), announced he would not seek reelection this year, Ms. Wilson decided to seek the GOP nomination for the seat of the man who had been her political mentor.

Heather Wilson Voted For Big Labor Power Grab, Then Doubled Down

However, Ms. Wilson's July 2007 vote for H.R.980, and even more her subsequent decision to ignore the pleas of pro-Right to Work New Mexicans that she repudiate that vote and pledge to oppose such legislation in the future, turned out to be significant political liabilities for her Senate candidacy.

"All politicians make mistakes. Some mistakes cost more than others," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"However, the better politicians are ready to listen to well-informed constituents, especially constituents who have supported them in the past, who



Congresswoman Heather Wilson Bustin' Out

Many of the rank-and-file Republican voters in New Mexico who strongly oppose forced unionism banded together

last month to deal a stern rebuke to Big Labor-appeasing Congresswoman Heather Wilson.

criticize a vote they have cast. And if a politician then decides that he can no longer justify a vote, he repudiates it.

"That's not what Heather Wilson did. She both cosponsored H.R.980 and helped Big Labor Democrats steam-roll it through the House, and then, when freedom-loving New Mexicans protested, she doubled down.

"But now she has paid a steep political price for her decision. And she isn't the first House member to do so."

Congressmen Burton, Jones Admitted Error, Survived Stiff Primary Challenges

"Back in February," continued Mr. Mix, "GOP Congressman Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland, who had first voted for H.R.980, then rebuffed

constituent entreaties that he change his position, was defeated by 100% pro-Right to Work challenger Andy Harris.

"And last summer, Virginia Congressman Tom Davis was widely considered by the media to be the favorite to capture the GOP nomination for the Senate seat opening up as a result of fellow Republican John Warner's announced retirement.

"However, Mr. Davis soon learned that his vote for H.R.980 had cost him critical support among Republican Party officials in the Old Dominion. After it became apparent he couldn't win the nomination, Mr. Davis announced last December he wouldn't run."

In contrast to Mr. Gilchrest and Mr. Davis, GOP Congressmen Dan Burton

See Voters page 2

Voters Disapprove Union Monopoly

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(Ind.) and Walter Jones (N.C.) survived major primary challenges this spring after they came to fully understand the impact of H.R.980 and promised not to support the measure in the future.

But this June 3, Ms. Wilson, whose House district includes Albuquerque and some of its suburbs, was defeated in the GOP Senate primary by Congressman Steve Pearce, who represents the southern half of New Mexico.

Unlike Ms. Wilson, Mr. Pearce took a strong stand against H.R.980 during the primary campaign and pledged to oppose all such measures as well as other forced-unionism legislation if elected to the Senate.

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.

Ever since last summer's House roll call, Committee members and supporters have been, through letters, phone calls, and personal visits, expressing their disappointment with all the politicians who voted for this legislation.

And well before the New Mexico primary campaigns heated up, Committee President Mix spoke personally with Ms. Wilson to request that she change her pro-H.R.980 position and pledge to oppose such legislation consistently in the future.

Only after the congresswoman refused to change course did the Committee, in the weeks before the New Mexico primaries, send out a series of three mailings to mobilize pro-Right to Work households to contact her and urge her to stop appeasing the union hierarchy.

Right to Work Issue 'Made a Real Difference' in Primary

But Ms. Wilson also decided to spurn the pleas of freedom-loving New Mexicans. Not only did she refuse to back away from her vote for H.R.980, she brazenly vowed, on her Right to Work candidate survey, to continue supporting such legislation in the future!

In the end, Ms. Wilson, who had been widely expected to win the GOP Senate primary, suffered a stinging defeat.

"Since the Committee's list of members and supporters in New Mexico includes over 58,000 names, and Ms. Wilson ultimately lost the primary by fewer than 3000 votes, it would seem fair to surmise the Right to Work issue made a real difference in the New Mexico primary," noted Mr. Mix.

"GOP voters in the Land of Enchantment have sent a message that they are disenchanted with Republican elected officials who try to 'finesse' the forced-unionism issue. It's a message to which GOP politicians across the country should pay heed."

In this fall's U.S. Senate race in New Mexico, Mr. Pearce will face off against Big Labor Democratic Congressman Tom Udall.

Throughout his five terms in the House, Mr. Udall has been at the union hierarchy's beck and call, voting to expand union monopoly privileges and strip independent-minded workers who don't wish to join a union of the few rights they retain.

Now It's Tom Udall's Turn to Feel the Heat

For example, in the current Congress, besides voting for H.R.980, Mr. Udall

also gave a thumbs-up to H.R.800, the House version of the "Card-Check" Forced-Unionism Bill.

H.R.800 and its Senate companion, S.1041, would rewrite federal labor law concerning so-called "card checks" to make it even easier for Big Labor to obtain monopoly-bargaining control over private-sector employees at workplaces nationwide.

"For several reasons, including especially the unpopularity of the Bush Administration in New Mexico, Tom Udall is now considered to be the favorite in this fall's Senate race," said Mr. Mix.

"But the vast majority of New Mexico citizens clearly do not favor forced unionism, which Mr. Udall slavishly supports.

"Within a few short months, the Committee will again mobilize freedom-loving New Mexicans across the state to contact Mr. Udall and ask him to stop carrying water for the union bosses. If he refuses to heed this call, the Committee intends to keep raising the heat on Mr. Udall until Election Day.

"The fact is, compulsory unionism is nearly as unpopular with the New Mexico electorate as a whole as it is with the state's GOP primary voters.

"And unless Mr. Udall figures out how to get on the right side of New Mexico citizens on the Right to Work issue, this fall's U.S. Senate race in the Land of Enchantment may well turn out to be much more competitive than many pundits are forecasting." 📞



Steve Pearce's pledges to oppose the federalization of union monopoly bargaining over state and local public-

safety employees and support a national Right to Work law resonate with many New Mexico voters.

CREDIT: KEDU RADIO, RUIDOSO, N.M.

Compulsory Unionism Batters Bricklayers

'Depleted' Union Till, Not Disappearing Jobs, Worries Union Chief

A former forced dues-paying member of the Denver-based Local 7 of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC/AFL-CIO) recently shared with the National Right to Work Committee disturbing news about how the union hierarchy is hurting rank-and-file workers.

In an internal union memo dated April 28, which the former member forwarded to the Committee after obtaining a copy, BAC General President John Flynn admits that Local 7 "has lost several large contractors in the past few years."

Mr. Flynn is concerned because these lost contracts have "all but depleted . . . the union treasury," but of course the building trades workers who rely on the Local 7 hiring hall to obtain jobs for them have a far more serious financial problem.

Emblematic of the difficulties faced by Local 7-"represented" workers is the union hierarchy's loss of a "major tile contractor" early this spring.

'Nonunion Companies Started To Take Over the Work'

Commenting on the BAC memo that he had forwarded, the Committee's correspondent observed:

"The tile contractor . . . happen[s] to be the one that I worked for for 30 years as a union member.

"They were the largest tile and terrazzo company in Colorado at one time, and you could only be union in order to work for them . . ."

But as times changed, the company became increasingly uncompetitive and "nonunion companies started to take over the work." Yet managers were unable "to hire nonunion workers to compete with the influx of nonunion shops."

Two years ago, the Committee's correspondent quit the still-unionized tile company to form his own union-free shop, now the largest such terrazzo company in Colorado.

In brick and tile laying just as in many other kinds of employment, workers under the control of a union monopoly-bargaining agent frequently have difficulty competing with union-free workers.

One key reason why is that union boss-negotiated contracts normally require rigid job classifications that



In Right to Work states, the individual employee is never forced to pay a union monopoly-bargaining agent dues or fees

for "services" that turn out to be detrimental to the worker's interests or contrary to his values.

waste time and money, ultimately to the detriment of workers' job security.

The failure of Big Labor-controlled construction businesses to compete in the marketplace can be plainly seen in the construction-industry employment data for the boom years of 2002 to 2007 compiled by prominent labor economists Barry Hirsch and David Macpherson for the Bureau of National Affairs.

The Hirsch-Macpherson data show that, while the number of union-free construction jobs skyrocketed by 32%, or 1.8 million, over this five-year period, the number of unionized construction jobs increased by less than 1%!

Of course, now that construction is contracting across the country, unionized building-trades firms will inevitably suffer job losses way out of proportion to the roughly 15% of industry jobs they now provide.

Forced Union Dues Add Insult to Injury

It's bad enough that Big Labor-impeded construction workers have far less employment security than their union-free counterparts.

But in Colorado and 27 other states, unionized construction workers, along with the vast majority of other unionized private-sector employees, have the additional burden of being forced to pay union dues or fees in order to keep their jobs, for as long as they have them.

"BAC czar John Flynn may worry about how the massive employment losses endured by BAC Local 7-'represented' workers in recent years 'jeopardize' the financial interests of BAC and its other subsidiaries," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"But Mr. Flynn and his lieutenants know all the same that, under federal law, they can keep collecting forced dues and 'agency' fees from the union rank and file who still have their jobs.

"That's just wrong. To force workers to pay dues for the 'benefit' of having a wrecking machine like Local 7 as their monopoly-bargaining agent adds insult to injury.

"In fact, the sad saga of BAC Local 7 shows clearly why we need a national Right to Work law barring all forced union dues and fees." 📞

Why's Michigan the 'Epicenter of Unemployment'?

More and More Citizens Recognize Forced Unionism as Major Culprit

The closings of several plants producing pickups and SUV's wasn't the only unwanted publicity the Wolverine State received late last month. The state was also the subject of a dispiriting article by *BusinessWeek's* David Kiley.

The article, entitled "Michigan: Epicenter of Unemployment," is filled with gloomy quotes from job seekers and job recruiters. Characteristic is job-fair organizer Jim Perry's assessment that Michigan's employment picture is now worse than during the troubled early eighties:

"Then, workers were being laid off, but these jobs are being eliminated. . . . And they are going at a much faster rate than we can replace them."

Federal data cited by Mr. Kiley reinforce Mr. Perry's dire assessment: "Michigan . . . leads the U.S. in unemployment. The state's unemployment rate hit 8.5% in May. That's up two percentage points from April, and compares with a figure of 5.5% for the whole U.S. in May."

Young People Have to Leave The State to Get Jobs

The real picture is even worse than such data show. Michigan's measured unemployment rate would be far higher but for the fact that huge numbers of onetime residents have for years sought and obtained jobs in other states. This is especially true of young people.

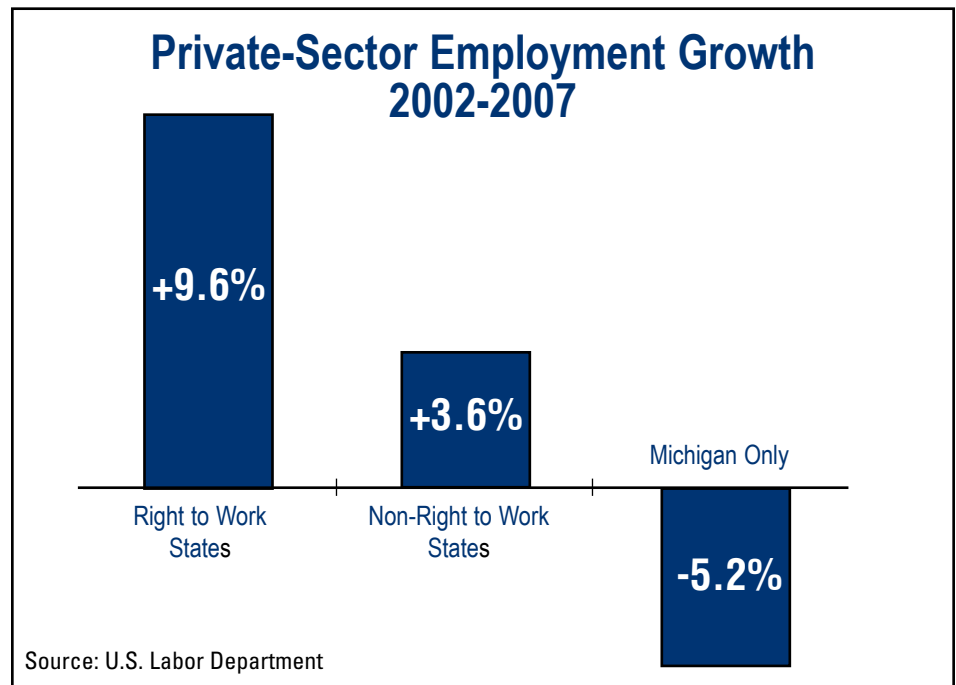
Between 1982 and 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the share of Americans aged 25-34 who live in Michigan plummeted from 4.0% to 3.1%.

And the hemorrhaging of young employees and entrepreneurs, as well as their family members and other citizens, is continuing in the new millennium.

Between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2007, Michigan lost an additional 360,000 citizens as a result of net out-migration to other states. This was the fifth worst out-migration of any state.

Significantly, of the eight states suffering from the worst domestic out-migration during this period, all except Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Louisiana have both private- and public-sector compulsory unionism.

But the eight states enjoying the greatest net in-migration of people from other states all have Right to Work laws on the books



Between 2002 and 2007, forced-unionism Michigan lost a stinging 5.2% of its private-sector jobs, but private-sector

jobs in Right to Work states increased by 9.6%. Many Michigan citizens have noticed the disparity.

barring all forced union dues and fees.

"For some time now, even Big Labor politicians like Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm have admitted that the status quo in Michigan is bad. They just claim forced unionism isn't to blame," said Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Committee.

Law 'Would Facilitate Robust Job Creation'

"But countless thousands of young citizens are proving Ms. Granholm and company wrong by seeking and finding good jobs in states that already have Right to Work laws," Mr. Mix commented. "And Michigan politicians who refuse to recognize reality are jeopardizing their careers."

Currently, 14 state representatives and senators are sponsoring or cosponsoring measures (H.B.4454 and S.B.607) that would make Michigan a Right to Work state.

And several influential political observers are encouraging more legislators to get on board.

For example, in a recent op-ed, well-known Michigan economist Michael LaFaive argued that enactment of a

state Right to Work law "would facilitate robust job creation in Michigan."

Meanwhile, the grass-roots Michigan Right to Work Committee is preparing to survey all major-party candidates for the Michigan Legislature this year regarding their stands on a state Right to Work and other important related issues.

The Michigan group is also preparing to mobilize thousands and thousands of identified Right to Work supporters across the state to contact their candidates and urge them to pledge 100% support for Right to Work.

Mr. Mix promised that the National Committee would do everything possible to assist the efforts of this fast-growing organization and other pro-Right to Work groups and individuals in Michigan.

"The fact that a higher share of private-sector employees in Michigan are forced to pay union dues than in all but one other state in the continental U.S. certainly has a lot to do with its being the 'epicenter of unemployment,'" he declared.

"That means economists like Michael LaFaive are right in contending that enactment of a state Right to Work law could help turn the state into a job-creation hub." 📧

Harry Reid Genuflects Before Big Labor Bosses

Plans to Push Forced-Unionism Agenda as Senate Session Winds Down

With only three months to go until the U.S. Senate adjourns so that some of its members can run for reelection full time, while others try to swing the presidential race in their home states, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) could seemingly tell union lobbyists he's done enough for them already.

In the year-and-a-half since he took charge of the Senate, Mr. Reid has certainly done his darnedest for the union bosses.

Take just the biggest two items on the union hierarchy's agenda.

Last June Mr. Reid brought to the Senate floor H.R.800, the already U.S. House-passed version of the cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act."

H.R.800, now also introduced in the Senate as S.1041, would rewrite federal labor law concerning so-called "card checks" to make it even easier for union bosses to seize monopoly-bargaining power over millions of employees in the American private sector.

Following Mr. Reid's lead, every single Senate Democrat, except for then-incapacitated Tim Johnson (S.D.), voted to cut off debate on, and thus clear the way for passage of, this special-interest measure. Habitual union-boss appeasing Republican Arlen Specter (Pa.) also voted with Mr. Reid.

However, through no fault of Mr. Reid's, the bill did not secure the 60 votes needed to prevent Right to Work allies from continuing debate.

Harry Reid Also Tried to Sneak Through Public-Safety Monopoly-Bargaining Bill

This spring, Mr. Reid tried to sneak through the Senate Big Labor's second key objective in the 2007-2008 Congress, the so-called "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

This scheme, now numbered H.R.980 and S.2123, would establish a new federal mandate imposing union monopoly bargaining over state and local firefighters and other public-safety employees across the country.

In May, after Big Labor Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) had first quick-snapped floor action on H.R.980, Mr. Reid filed a "cloture" motion to prevent Senate Right to Work allies from waging any substantial debate on the bill before it was rushed through the chamber.

And only the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee, its 2.2 million members, and a handful of other H.R.980 opponents such as the League of Cities prevented Mr. Reid from succeeding.

***Congressional Quarterly:* Mr. Reid Will Keep Bringing Up Forced-Unionism Bills**

Organized Labor is widely expected this fall to make substantial electoral gains in the Senate as well as the House.


Mr. Reid could therefore plausibly now tell union lobbyists that it makes no sense for him to bring up the card-check or firefighter monopoly-bargaining schemes for Senate floor action again until 2009, when their prospects for passage could be much better, and will almost certainly be no worse.

Nevertheless, union lobbyists reportedly are still pushing for additional Senate floor action on H.R.980/S.2123 and several other forced-unionism measures, including perhaps H.R.800/S.1041.

And on May 30, *Congressional Quarterly* forecast confidently that Mr. Reid will "keep queuing . . . up for floor action . . . the bills on [O]rganized [L]abor's wish list" until the Senate goes home this fall.

"Although he didn't prevail upon his chamber to rubber-stamp the top two items of Big Labor's forced-unionism agenda the first time he tried, Harry Reid is so eager to please union bigwigs that he will keep trying as long as they want him to," commented Committee President Mark Mix.

"Mr. Reid's only apparent stipulation is that he doesn't want extended floor debates on pro-forced unionism measures. Being no fool, he knows these measures aren't popular with the public, and he doesn't want a media spotlight on them.

"That means, if self-avowedly pro-Right to Work senators stick to their guns and insist on robust debate and ample consideration of amendments before any Big Labor power grab receives a final vote, then Mr. Reid will likely back down." 



Mark Mix: Self-avowedly pro-Right to Work senators should "stick to their guns and insist on robust debate and

ample consideration of amendments before any Big Labor power grab receives a final vote."

No Right to Quit Union — No Rights Within It

Forced Unionism Goes Hand in Hand With Rigged Contract 'Votes'

Apologists for government-imposed forced unionism today still uphold a vision of "freedom" for employees reminiscent of the one once propagated by Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin.

After seizing control of Russia in 1917, Mr. Lenin almost immediately ordered the destruction of all political parties other than his own Communist Party.

However, for a time the dictator continued to profess support for "freedom of debate" within the Communist Party.

NLRB: Union Bosses May Freely Ignore Members' Majority Vote Against Workplace Contract

Assisted by federal and state law, modern-day American union officials also create a kind of "one-party state" in the workplace.

No individual employee or rival employee group is permitted to challenge the "exclusive" (monopoly) privilege wielded by a government-certified union to speak for all employees.

Like Vladimir Lenin, forced-unionism apologists justify single-party rule over the workplace with claims that dissenting workers have "freedom" to advance their views within the union.

But, as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has confirmed time and again, "freedom" within a union that you aren't free to leave is a fanciful notion with no more substance than the Leninist version of "freedom."

For example, in 2000, the NLRB baldly stated that unionized workers who join a union so they can have at least some influence over its actions have no grounds for protest if union officials disregard how the majority of members vote on a contract.

This ruling (in *ILA, Local 1575*, 332 NLRB No. 139) applies to millions of employees who are forced under federal law to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent and may also be forced, unless protected by a state Right to Work law, to bankroll the union.

Today NLRB rulings like *ILA, Local 1575* and similar court decisions continue to embolden international union bosses like Tom Buffenbarger and their lieutenants to "ratify" contracts that employees have voted down, virtually whenever they calculate that ratification will promote union institutional interests.

In late May, the NLRB general council's office reaffirmed that the International

Association of Machinists (IAM/AFL-CIO) union, headed by Mr. Buffenbarger, and its subsidiaries do not violate the so-called "duty of fair representation" or any provision in federal labor law by disregarding majority votes.

The general council's ruling denied Indiana employee Cecil Freeburn's appeal for reinstatement of his unfair labor practice charge against the IAM brass for agreeing to a renegotiated contract despite the fact that a majority of employees had already rejected the new offer.

In denying the appeal, the general council's office curtly noted that in Mr. Freeburn's case IAM bosses had followed a procedure for overruling employees' majority vote that is "consistent with the Union's constitution, bylaws, and past practices."

'Freedom Can't Be Doled Out in Bits and Pieces'


As National Right to Work Committee Vice President Matthew Leen pointed out, the real scandal is not that Big Labor's boasts about "democratic control" of unions have no basis either in labor law or in common practice.

"The real scandal is that so many members of Congress use so-called 'union democracy' as a rationalization for forcing workers who aren't union members to accept unwanted union monopoly bargaining and pay union tribute," explained Mr. Leen.

"Under American traditions of limited government, Congress has no legitimate authority to grant union officials these monopoly powers over employees.

"Moreover, human experience all across the world shows that freedom can't be doled out in bits and pieces. Without the personal freedom to quit or refuse to join the union, you won't have freedom within the union, either."

Mr. Leen urged Committee members to call their U.S. senators and representatives today through the congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121:

"Ask them to support the National Right to Work Act [S.1301 and H.R.697], which would repeal federally-imposed forced union dues and fees. By genuinely protecting the right not to join a union, this much-needed reform would also, over time, help rank-and-file workers wield more power within unions." 



In Big Labor czar Tom Buffenbarger's "democratic" International Association of Machinists union, union officials may

in many cases "ratify" workplace contracts that a majority of members have rejected.

CREDIT: WWW.GOIAM.ORG

Are Union Strategists 'Ditsy With Success'?

To Get Big Labor's Nod, Ronnie Musgrove Backs 'Card-Check' Scheme

2006 was a banner election year for Big Labor in large part because union bosses were too cagy to demand that their chosen candidates in close races make public pledges to maintain and expand forced unionism, while GOP congressional leaders were too timid to allow recorded votes on Right to Work.

Consequently, public attention was not focused on the forced-unionism issue, and many union-boss puppet candidates were able to get elected without ever having to take a clear public stand on major Big Labor power grabs then pending in Congress.

This year, the massive, forced union dues-funded union political machine could have another banner year, but in 2008 it appears union political operatives will lack the advantage of stealth.

Union kingpins are determined to ensure that once Barack Obama is in the White House and union-label politicians hold substantial majorities in both chambers of Congress, they will be able to ram through their forced-unionism agenda quickly.

That's why, even in strongly pro-Right to Work states, union operatives are pressuring their favored candidates into making public pledges to back special-interest schemes that are very unpopular with the citizens they are seeking to represent.

The most recent example is former Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, now the Democratic challenger of 100% pro-Right to Work GOP Sen. Roger Wicker.



CREDIT: [HTTP://CACHIE.DAVIDLIFE.COM](http://CACHIE.DAVIDLIFE.COM)

U.S. Senate candidate Ronnie Musgrove (D) is openly flouting Mississippians' pro-Right to Work principles.

On June 2, the main blog on the national AFL-CIO web site proudly reported that Mr. Musgrove had pledged to support Big Labor bosses' cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act" if he is elected to the Senate.

Installation of Union Monopoly Through 'Card-Check' Tactics Would Be Made Automatic

Sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), both forced-unionism

cheerleaders, this measure would greatly expand the "card-check" privileges of union officials nationwide.

Under current law, union bosses are already able to grab monopoly power to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules solely through the acquisition of signed "union authorization cards."

Consequently, individual workers under the peering eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

However, as stacked as current law is in favor of Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining power, employers nevertheless retain the right to stand up for their independent employees against union-boss intimidation tactics.

But Kennedy-Miller would empower union officials to impose monopoly bargaining through card checks automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.


Union Bosses Evidently Believe Forced-Dues Money Will Conquer All

"The card-check bill is obviously a means to enable union bosses to force millions of additional workers to accept a union as their monopoly-bargaining agent and pay union dues, or be fired," commented Doug Stafford, vice president of the National Right to Work Committee.

"Not surprisingly, this scheme isn't popular anywhere in the country. And it is especially unpopular in Mississippi, which has had a Right to Work law on the books since 1954.

"Nevertheless, union strategists evidently believe that their forced dues-funded political machine has become so powerful that, in Mississippi, a U.S. Senate candidate can openly support the card-check bill and get away with it.

"For our part, the Committee and our Mississippi members will first urge Ronnie Musgrove to disavow his stand for the Kennedy-Miller bill, then, if he refuses, make sure freedom-loving citizens across the Magnolia State know all about his campaign pledge.

"Assuming Mr. Musgrove doesn't back down, we will soon know whether or not union strategists are merely arrogant, or 'ditsy with success.'" 

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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@nrtwc.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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Payoff: 'A Million or More Workers a Year'

Union Bigwig Anna Burger Admits Why She Wants 'Card-Check' Bill

Ever since the cynically mislabeled "Employee Free Choice Act" was first introduced in 2003, Right to Work supporters have charged that this scheme's real aim is to increase sharply the number of workers who are forced to accept union representation and pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Now Anna Burger, secretary-treasurer of the massive Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and chairwoman of the "Change to Win" union conglomerate, has publicly put a number on how many now-independent workers the "Employee Free Choice Act" would hand over to the SEIU hierarchy.

Legislation Not Designed To Increase Voluntary Union Membership

And the number is eye-popping.

In a gloating June 3 speech at the SEIU convention in Puerto Rico, Ms. Burger called this legislation (numbered H.R.800 and S.1041 in the current Congress) "the fuel -- the opening -- for SEIU to change our growth curve from 100,000 to a million or more workers a year."

Though she was not too clear in her rhetoric, Ms. Burger most emphatically did not mean that, under H.R.800/S.1041, at least 900,000 additional workers a year would voluntarily and individually sign up to join the SEIU and thus become union members.

Instead, H.R.800/S.1041 would rewrite federal labor law concerning so-called "card checks" to make it even easier for Big Labor to obtain monopoly-bargaining control over employees at workplaces nationwide.

Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose Monopoly Bargaining

While Americans overwhelmingly support the employee's individual right to join and be represented by a union, poll after poll has shown that public opinion is strongly opposed to union monopoly bargaining.

For example, a December 2006 nationwide survey conducted by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000 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.



CREDIT: WWW.NYTIMES.COM

Service Employees International Union bigwig Anna Burger (center) is practically salivating at the prospect of

the extra forced dues she will rake in if "card-check" forced-unionism legislation is enacted.

"The vast majority of citizens are opposed even to Big Labor keeping its current monopoly-bargaining privileges. The public obviously has no interest whatsoever in making it even easier for union bosses to secure monopoly-bargaining power over workers," commented National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

Nevertheless, if union-label Barack Obama, who is now leading in all nationwide polls, becomes the next President, and Big Labor Democrats make, as now is expected, substantial gains in the U.S. Senate this year, there is a serious danger card-check forced-unionism legislation could become law in 2009.

Mr. Mix explained:

"Democratic politicians on Capitol Hill are almost to a man beholden to Big Labor. And more than a few Republican politicians are too intimidated by the union bosses to stand up to most forced-unionism schemes.

"That's why, even though public opinion is heavily against monopoly bargaining and forced union dues, a special-interest measure that is designed to generate far more of both is now dangerously close to passage."

Mr. Mix vowed that the Committee and its members would make every possible effort this year to ensure the card-check scheme isn't enacted in 2009 -- regardless of who is elected President this fall.

Committee Members Strive To Maintain, Strengthen Firewall in Senate

To achieve this goal, the Committee aims to keep the union hierarchy clearly below, with at least a few votes to spare, the 60 Senate votes it will need, even if Mr. Obama is in the White House, to cut off debate by Right to Work allies and pass the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act."

"I know I can count on the Committee's 2.2 million members over the next few months to keep turning up the pressure on 2008 Senate candidates to pledge opposition to forced-unionism power grabs and support for Right to Work now," said Mr. Mix.

"The Committee's future ability to defeat card-check forced-unionism legislation and ultimately pass a national Right to Work law depends on the success of our efforts." 📣