

# Pro-Union Monopoly Stance Roils Deeds Campaign

## Virginia Democratic Candidate Now Trying to Muddy the Waters

Sixteen years ago this past spring, then-Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder signed into law a statute explicitly prohibiting public officials at the state and local levels in Virginia from recognizing government union bosses as employees' "exclusive" bargaining agents.

Consequently, teacher, firefighter and other government union bosses in the Old Dominion, unlike their counterparts in most other states, may not legally wield monopoly-bargaining power.

Union monopoly bargaining, often euphemistically referred to as "collective" bargaining, forces union members and nonmembers alike to allow the agents of a single union to speak for them on all matters concerning their pay, benefits, and working conditions.

Workers who choose not to join the union and believe they could get a better deal negotiating individually or through another agent are legally barred from even trying.

### Virginia Has Weathered Recession Far Better Than Government Union Strongholds

In states where they are handed monopoly-bargaining privileges, government union bosses routinely exploit them to perpetuate productivity-killing compensation practices.

For example, in Michigan and other strapped states, huge numbers of teachers take advantage of taxpayer-funded early retirements, which in addition to their large cost also exacerbate shortages of teachers in hard-to-fill subject areas like high school math and science.

A 2007 *Detroit News* analysis found that 25% of teachers and school employees in Michigan retire before age 55.

But in states with monopoly-bargaining laws, administrators cannot touch pension and other policies that are strangling taxpayers without renegotiating union contracts.

Virginia's ban on public-sector union monopoly bargaining and its Right to Work law protecting employees' freedom to hold a job without being forced to pay dues or fees to an unwanted union are significant reasons why it has weathered the current national recession so much better than many other states.



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**To make firefighter and other public-sector union bosses happy, Virginia Democratic gubernatorial nominee Creigh Deeds is**



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**backing federal monopoly-bargaining legislation that would overturn a state law signed by Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder (left).**

But Creigh Deeds, the Democratic nominee in the Virginia gubernatorial election taking place this November 3, wants to make his state more like economically ravaged forced-unionism strongholds like Michigan and California.

### Mr. Deeds Backs Bill That Would Federalize Public-Safety Union Monopoly

So eager is Mr. Deeds, now a state senator (Roanoke), to please Big Labor that he has even endorsed publicly a measure in Congress (H.R.413/S.1611) that would override Virginia law by federally granting public-safety union officials monopoly-bargaining control over state and local public employees.

Fortunately, Mr. Deeds' opponent, GOP gubernatorial nominee and current state Attorney General Bob McDonnell, is placing the Right to Work of Virginia public employees and the interests of Virginia taxpayers over his desire for the support of public-safety union officials.

In his 2009 National Right to Work Committee candidate survey, Mr. McDonnell has pledged that, if elected governor, he will support Virginia's Right to Work law 100% and oppose imposition of public-sector monopoly bargaining in any form.

This fall, Mr. McDonnell's campaign is blasting Mr. Deeds for pandering to Big Labor. An imminent Committee TV ad campaign will also highlight Mr. Deeds' support for union monopoly bargaining and turn up the pressure on him to change his stance.

Mr. Deeds now undoubtedly recognizes that his position in favor of monopoly-bargaining privileges for

government union bosses is a serious political liability and is seeking to do damage control.

Mr. Deeds' campaign has even cynically insisted that his vows to help hand public-sector union bigwigs monopoly power to negotiate pay, benefits, and work rules for workers who don't want to join the union as well as those who do shouldn't trouble anyone, because public-sector strikes would remain illegal.

### Word Games Won't Fool Freedom-Loving Virginians

"As at least some Deeds campaign insiders surely know, even union-label states like Michigan and New York have laws on the books banning public-sector strikes, but no one denies that government union bosses in those states wield monopoly-bargaining power," noted Committee Vice President Matthew Leen.

"Furthermore, as the sad experiences of states like Michigan and New York show, it is extremely difficult to deter public-sector union bosses who want to call illegal strikes from doing so once they wield monopoly-bargaining power.

"They routinely make 'amnesty' for their lawbreaking a condition of ending the illegal strike."

Mr. Leen called on Right to Work supporters across Virginia to contact the Deeds campaign at 571-303-2260 and request that Mr. Deeds publicly repudiate, without delay, his support for government union monopoly bargaining. 