

# Rising Political Stars Call For H.R.391 Votes

## *Grass-Roots Campaign May Yet Change Workforce Chairman's Mind*

Time is running short for National Right to Work Committee efforts to secure recorded votes on legislation repealing federally-imposed forced union dues before this fall's elections — a vital step in the Committee's continuing efforts to build congressional support for Right to Work.

But the strong support the Committee program is getting from some of Capitol Hill's rising stars continues to raise hopes.

Two examples of this new generation of Right to Work legislative leaders are Congressmen Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) and Mike Pence (R-Ind.).

Last month, Mr. DeMint made national news when he upset his far better financed rival in a runoff election held to select the GOP nominee for November's U.S. Senate contest in Right to Work South Carolina.

In the U.S. House, Mr. DeMint currently represents Up-Country South Carolina, which has in recent years attracted major investments from BMW, Michelin, and Fuji film, among many others.

And he has regularly paid tribute to the key role of the Palmetto State's Right to Work law in fostering a healthy business climate and growing prosperity for his constituents.

Mr. DeMint is determined to bring the benefits of Right to Work to employees and businesses in all 50 states.

That's why, even as he now begins the fall Senate campaign as the slight favorite over Big Labor Democrat Inez Tenenbaum, the state superintendent of education, Mr. DeMint continues to push for votes on H.R.391, the House version of the National Right to Work Act.

### **Federal Labor Law 'Robs Workers of Their Basic Rights as Citizens'**

In a May letter to the House Ad Hoc Panel on Restoring Worker Freedom, chaired by pro-Right to Work Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.), Mr. DeMint explained his motivation:

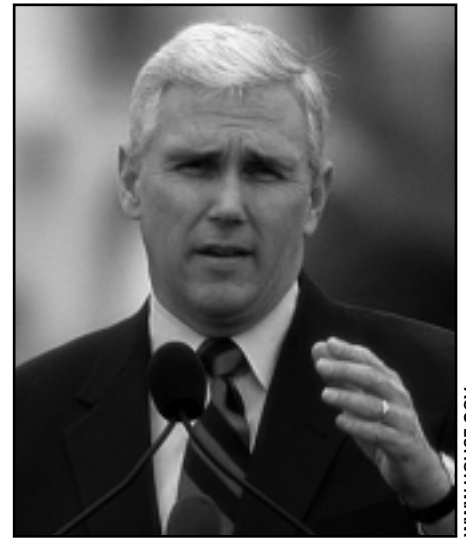
"For too long, workers in America have toiled under a system of compulsory unionism that robs them of their basic rights as citizens. . . .

"[H.R.391] would simply remove the portions of federal labor law that allow



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**Strong supporters of recorded votes on H.R.391 include both congressmen from Right to Work states, like South**



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**Carolina's Jim DeMint (left), and congressmen from forced-dues states, like Indiana's Mike Pence.**

union officials to compel workers to pay union dues or so-called 'representation fees' as a condition of employment. . . .

" . . . I urge Congress to seek roll-call votes on the National Right to Work Act this year."

### **'Hoosiers Should Never Have Had to Fight This Fight'**

Of the 128 House cosponsors of H.R.391, more than 40 represent districts in non-Right to Work states.

Inasmuch as their employee and small-business constituents suffer the most direct harm as a result of federally-imposed forced union dues, freedom-loving congressmen from non-Right to Work states are often especially passionate H.R.391 supporters.

Hoosier Congressman Mike Pence, whose east Indiana district includes the historic union strongholds of Muncie and Anderson, is an outspoken advocate of holding votes on the Right to Work Bill.

After first winning his House seat in 2000, Mr. Pence became the only freshman to get a subcommittee chairmanship. Recently, he became the House's deputy majority whip.

Mr. Pence is an active supporter of passage of a state Right to Work law, but he correctly identifies the federal forced-dues provisions targeted by H.R.391 as the root of the problem:

"Hoosiers should never have had to

fight this fight. It is federal law — not any state statute — that authorizes the firing of Indiana employees for refusal to pay dues to an unwanted union."

Committee members who would like to thank Jim DeMint and Mike Pence for their principled stands in favor of Right to Work may write them at their respective campaign headquarters:

DeMint for Senate Committee, P.O. Box 12425, Columbia, S.C. 29211, and Mike Pence for Congress, 10 W. 8th St., Anderson, Ind. 46016.

### **Workforce Chairman Urged To Stop Stonewalling Bill**

Although H.R.391 enjoys the resolute support of many highly regarded majority caucus members like Mr. DeMint and Mr. Pence, so far its progress has been stalled by Congressman John Boehner (R-Ohio), chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee.

Though he still purports to be pro-Right to Work, Mr. Boehner has indicated he will not allow any action on H.R.391 in the current Congress.

"Because it is supported by so many principled and politically astute elected officials on Capitol Hill, I continue to hope that the Right to Work Committee's ongoing grass-roots campaign to change Mr. Boehner's mind will succeed this summer," said Committee Vice President Doug Stafford. 📞