

September 11, 2007

Letters to the Editor
South Florida *Sun-Sentinel*
200 E. Las Olas Blvd.,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
letters@sunsentinel.com
(Submitted via email)

Dear Letters Editor:

RE: "Right to Work law should be eliminated" (9/10/2007)

The anti-Right to Work screed by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) lawyer Gene Mechanic that appeared in the *Sun-Sentinel* September 10 presents a grossly distorted picture of the impact of Right to Work laws in Florida and 21 other states.

There's undisputed evidence that, across the 50 states today, the presence of a Right to Work law is strongly correlated with lower living costs and higher real earnings. This is plain when you adjust the average weekly earnings data reported by the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington, D.C., by utilizing an interstate cost-of-living index for 2005 recently published by Congressional Quarterly.

In 2005, average cost of living-adjusted weekly earnings in the 22 states with Right to Work laws barring forced union dues and fees on the books were \$777, roughly \$93 more than in non-Right to Work states as a group.

That comes to a \$4800-a-year disadvantage for full-time employees in non-Right to Work states!

Even data furnished in the American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) union's "Survey and Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends 2002," published in July 2003, showed that on average living costs (excluding all taxes) are roughly 15% higher in non-Right to Work states than in Right to Work states.

Yet Mechanic cynically tried to compare living standards in Right to Work states and non-Right to Work states without making any effort whatsoever to account for Right to Work states' very significant cost-of-living advantage.

While there were several other gaping omissions and misstatements in Mechanic's screed, this example alone shows that, like too many other union spokesmen, he's ready to set aside facts of which union officials are clearly well aware when it serves his propaganda purposes.

Respectfully,

Mark Mix
President
National Right to Work Committee
8001 Braddock Rd., #500
Springfield, Virginia 22160
(703) 321-9820