

Right-to-Work Really Means No Union Work

An Attempt to Cut Your Pay and Destroy Your Pension

So-called “right-to-work” laws are nothing less than an attempt to weaken your union and take away the wages and benefits you’ve won through years of hard work. We must fight to stop them.

“Right-to-work” laws cut wages, put pensions in jeopardy and destroy good benefits.

- “Right-to-work” means workers can choose not to pay their fair share of union dues, stretching your union to the breaking point by forcing it to cover “free riders.” Your voice and that of your fellow workers is weakened.
- “Right-to-work” will deprive you of the family-supporting wages you deserve – workers in “right-to-work” states make about \$5,300 a year less than workers in free-bargaining states.
- The health of you and your family will suffer – in “right-to-work” states, 28 percent more people lack health insurance. And your pension will be threatened as companies run away from their obligations.
- “Right-to-work” laws can be deadly. The rate of workplace deaths is 36 percent higher in “right-to-work” states. Workers in those states also lose out on workers’ compensation.

“Right-to-work” is bad for your employer, too – it gives the upper hand to “low road” companies that offer poor pay and benefits. They can also devastate your local economy.

- Employers like yours negotiate with a union for a reason – they get access to a skilled, trained workforce. “Right-to-work” laws hurt their ability to compete on the quality, safety and productivity advantages they offer by using union workers. They get undercut by companies who don’t offer good wages or benefits.
- The good wages you make – the wages your union negotiated – allow you to spend more money at local shops, restaurants and other businesses. By weakening unions and putting those wages at risk, “right-to-work” laws can hurt your community’s economy as well.

“Right-to-work” laws take from the pockets of all working people -- especially women and minorities.

- Latino union members earn \$45 more each week than nonunion Latinos, while unionized African Americans earn 30 percent more each week than those not in a union. On average, women in labor unions earn \$149 each week more than their nonunion counterparts.
- “Right-to-work” laws undo the major gains unions have made in closing the gap between men’s and women’s pay. While the overall gender gap is 32 percent, it is only 5 percent among men and women who are in a union.