



NEWS & NOTES

From the desk of President David A. Cook
KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE
March 2013

SPECIAL EDITION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Working Missourians are under attack in Jefferson City. Union men and women are front and center in these attacks from legislators that want to silence the voice of labor. If they are successful the deck will be stacked against us for decades and big out of state contributors and big business will have complete control of the laws that are passed in Jefferson City. Why? It's all about money; the money it takes to get re-elected, and the extra money, the 1% can have if your solidarity is broken. Remember when you earn less the 1% earn more.

Two of the anti-worker bills introduced, right to work and paycheck protection have catchy misleading names that are designed to confuse the voting public with the ultimate goal of weakening unions. Let's look at what they are really about.

WHAT IS "RIGHT TO WORK"?

"Right-to-work" means that employers cannot require workers to pay any fees or other charges to cover the costs of unions that represent employees in collective bargaining, grievance procedures and other matters.

"Right-to-work" legislation creates a situation analogous (not unlike) to citizens driving on public roads or calling the public fire department to save burning houses, yet refusing to pay the taxes necessary for these public services. **It reduces financial resources for unions and the ability of unions to effectively represent workers and bargain for higher wages and benefits.**

Higgins Labor Studies Program, Notre Dame University

WHAT IS "PAYCHECK PROTECTION"?

This measure would force unions to secure annual written approval from each member before spending any portion of their dues on political activities. In some extreme cases, the measures would even apply to any activities that do not relate specifically to contract bargaining and labor-management relations, including lobbying, political education and get-out-the-vote drives.

The end result would dramatically undercut labor's ability to engage in basic legislative and electoral work. That's because the cost of collecting millions of signed forms from union members every year would be prohibitive.

RIGHT TO WORK = FREELoader



MORE INFO LINKS:

Go to these links for more information on the attacks on Missouri workers.

YOU TUBE AND AUDIO LINKS:

www.progressMissouri.org/rtw-strategy-session
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSylZPgCtS0>

REPORTS

Higginslabor.nd.edu/about/current-projects
www.epi.org/publication/bp299
More INFO at www.ufcw655.com



**ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS
4TH TUESDAY EACH MONTH 9AM & 7PM
UFCW MEETING HALL 300 WEIDMAN ROAD BALLWIN, MO 63011**

GET ACTIVE: LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

VOLUNTEER to help by contacting Robert Spence at 636-736-2775 or by email: rspence@ufcw655.org.

Lost Timers needed. Lost Timers receive their normal weekly pay while on Union leave to work against these anti-worker efforts. If interested contact: Dave Politte at 636-736-2702 or by email: dpolitte@ufcw655.org.

Part-time workers. Supplement your income by working 1 to 5 days a week against these anti-worker efforts. If interested contact: Merri Berry at 636-736-2757 or by email: mberry@ufcw55.org



"Does this seminar talk about how Corporations and Republicans bully labor?"



PAYCHECK DECEPTION BILLS are all about giving millionaires even more power to write their own rules.

All of the paycheck deception proposals would make it even easier for millionaire businessmen and corporate special interests to rig the system and write their own rules to help themselves.

Sign up for daily e-mail updates on activities in Jefferson City at:
<http://www.pnstate.org/site/survey>

DOES RIGHT TO WORK CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT? NO!

... economic development is the process of increasing opportunities and living standards for *all* residents of an area. This means that successful economic development is not compatible with falling wages and benefits for workers. It means that we need to put in place policies that support workers' wages and, yes, policies that support the organizations that workers have formed—unions—to successfully bargain collectively for better wages and benefits.

Higgins Report University of Notre Dame

WHAT CAN I DO?

YOU CAN DO NOTHING AND LOSE THE WAGES AND RIGHTS OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS FOUGHT FOR;

OR

YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE AND TELL THEM YOU CAN OPPOSE THE "RIGHT TO WORK" AND "PAYCHECK PROTECTION" BILLS BY CALLING: 1-888-907-9711