

Call your Representative, Gov. Nixon

Right to work laws have nothing to do with rights or work

By **DAVID COOK**
President

Fifty-four years ago Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Right to work laws provide no 'rights' and no 'work'...[Their] purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining."

These words continue to ring true today, even as the Missouri General Assembly has approved such a measure.

'Right-to-work' proponents assert that this measure will be a boon for economic development in our state, but study after study shows this is false.

For instance, a 2011 study conducted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City Economics Department showed that these laws have no correlation with unemployment rates or with employment loss in the manufacturing sector. The same study showed that the presence of a right-to-work law is not a major factor in business location decisions.

Even 'right-to-work' advocates like State Representative Eric Burlison and State Senator Ed Emery have publicly admitted that this measure will likely reduce wages in our state! How any politician can forthrightly support a measure that they believe will lower wages is beyond me.

Furthermore, 'Right-to-Work' laws are directly at odds with the conservative small government principles.

These measures, rather than provide for greater freedom, actually insert government into the collective bargaining process by expressly forbidding any group of workers



from entering into a union security agreement. Why would any small government advocates want to have government tell workers and employers how to bargain?

Fortunately, we can still stop 'right-to-work' in Missouri. While both chambers have adopted the measure neither the House, nor the Senate have garnered enough support for it to override Governor Nixon's inevitable veto.

Opposition to right-to-work in Missouri cuts across party lines in both chambers of our state house. Even after Senate Democrats had their filibuster broken by a rarely used procedure, four Senate Republicans joined them in voting against right-to-work.

In the House the 22 Republicans and one Independent have joined the overwhelming majority of Democratic Representatives in opposing this harmful, wage-cutting measure.

In order to defeat right-to-work we must do all that we can to maintain this unique bipartisan coalition.

We applaud the tireless support of all of our friends in the state legislature, and are heartened by the support of our Democratic as well as our Republican friends. We know that all of our lawmakers are under intense pressure from wealthy out-of-state special interests.

We know that this pressure will only intensify between now and the coming veto session, and that's why it is so important for all of our state legislators to continue hearing from us until the September veto session ends. The more our elected officials hear from the hard working Missourians who live and work in their districts, the harder it will be for them to ignore us.

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

Kehaulani Demirovic named to Local 655's Executive Board

Her message to our members:
"The Union is only as strong
as you and me."

Our newest Executive Board member, Kehaulani Demirovic, has been a member of Local 655 for 12 years, but has only become active in our Union over the last few years.

Demirovic says "I used to be one of the people who asked, 'What does the Union do for me?'"

That I changed when she started attending Union meetings and began to understand the importance of the work done by Local 655.

Now, Demirovic, who works as a bookkeeper at Gravois Shop 'n Save, under-



stands how powerful a group of workers standing together can be.

"We are a force," Demirovic says. "As individuals it is hard to be heard, but as a group, we *are* a force."

Demirovic is deeply concerned about potential enactment of a so-called 'right-to-work' law here in Missouri and is afraid that the passage of such a law, and the lower wages that will come with it will make it harder for her family and families across our state, to make ends meet.

"I see the empowerment that the Union has given me," says Demirovic. As a member of the Union's Executive Board, she hopes to expand that sense of empowerment to her co-workers and fellow union members on the Executive Board, while also gaining what she calls, "a better understanding of the power and potential of action."

Kehaulani and her family live in South St. Louis City.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

UFCW Local 655's
Annual Co-ed Softball Tournament

WHEN: August 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 & 11
WHERE: **BRIDGETON MUNICIPAL
ATHLETIC COMPLEX**
13217 Ferguson Lane
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044
Rainout Dates: August 12 & 13

The annual softball tournament applications will arrive at stores soon so be one of the first to sign up for this exciting, fun event. The softball tournament is limited to the first 50 teams.

Talk with your coworkers. Gather your team. Dig out your bats and gloves and be ready to join us for another fun tournament.

Don't have enough for a full team? We can pair you up with another store that may be short on players. (All combined teams must be approved by the Union).

For more information contact
Robert Spence (636-736-2775) or Kevin Ryan (636-736-2766)

HELP WANTED

Cowley News is looking for a part-time merchandiser to service magazines and books at retail chains in the North County and St. Charles areas. The individual will work 25 to 28 hours per week. This is a UFCW Local 655 Union position.

Reliable vehicle, proof of insurance and a smart phone are required. If interested email resume to Maryr@bookrak.com or call Mary at 314-570-8957.

We will be holding our
Barbecue
Saturday, July 18th, 2015
at Cross Keys Schnucks
(in Florissant at the intersection of Lindbergh and New Halls Ferry)

To raise money for Faces of Our Children to help
in the fight against Sickle Cell disease.

Members interested in helping should contact
Levi Eddins at 636-736-2791.

**FACES OF OUR
CHILDREN**

Get your walking shoes ready...
Join Local 655's Team

UFCW Local 655 is sponsoring a team in the Susan G. Komen Walk to be held Saturday, June 13 and is recruiting those who would like to help.
The Local will pay \$10 of the \$30 registration fee for the first

50 members who register. The fee includes a Komen T-shirt and a Local 655 Union logo item.
For information or to register, contact Nancy Parker at 636-736-2763 or email nparker@ufcw655.org.

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 20

Share Your Pride: Share this page in your break room.