

Missourians don't want right-to-work—so why does our Legislature?

By **DAVID COOK**
President

Senator Paul Wieland, a strong friend of labor said it best:

"The constituents that come up to talk to me say, 'You guys aren't going to pass right to work? You're not going to vote for it, are you?'...No constituent has ever come up to me and said, 'Paul, we really need you to go up there and vote for right to work.' It's just never happened."

Clearly, there is no public outcry calling for a right to work law in Missouri. On the contrary, Missourians who know what right to work laws are all about are adamantly and loudly opposed.

Why then, is the legislature so focused on passing this wage-killing, poverty-inducing law?

Perhaps they are listening to big out-of-state donors instead the citizens of Missouri. Last time I checked, our legislators are supposed to represent **us**, not out-of-state special interests.

Gov. Jay Nixon has taken a stand against the so-called "right to work" bill that caused much of the drama in the final week of the



Missouri legislative session, and now Nixon confirms he won't hesitate to use his veto pen on it.

Republicans leadership forced a vote on the legislation and in response Democrats blocked debate the rest of the week. The bill would prevent workers from having to pay union dues as a requirement for employment. It also included a provision that would make any violation of it a misdemeanor, and make a violator subject to unlimited civil penalties.

"The bill to make Missouri a so-called 'Right-to-Work' state would stifle our economic growth, weaken the middle class – and even subject Missouri employers to criminal and unlimited civil liability," Nixon said. "It's clear that attacking workers and threatening businesses is the wrong economic development strategy for our state and it's not what Missourians sent us here to do."

The Governor says he'll expend energy drumming up opposition to a possible override. If backers of the bill don't find more "yay" votes than it got in passing out of the House and Senate, they won't have enough to overturn the Governor's veto.

It's about time we remind our legislators who they actually work for!

DON'T FORGET

Call Gov. Jay Nixon at 855-463-8386 and thank him for his continued opposition to right to work.

'Right to Work' is **WRONG**

WAGES

Average worker in a RTW state makes

\$5,971

less per year than a worker in a free bargaining state.

POVERTY RATE

14.8%

in RTW states, compared to 13.1% in free bargaining states.

HEALTH BENEFITS

16.3%

of people below age 64 in RTW states are uninsured, compared to 12.4% in free bargaining states.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES

54.4%

higher in RTW states where unions can't speak up on behalf of workers.

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UNION PROUD

UFCW 655
a VOICE for working America

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MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES**

www.ufcw655.com

ABC pays off

Local 655 member Jack Schlereth was named UFCW Region 6 "Active Ballot Club Activist of the Month," for March 2015, and won a \$250 American Express gift card. Want a chance to win one of these monthly drawings while helping to promote workers' rights in Jefferson City and Washington, DC? Ask your Union Representative about joining ABC!

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)

Mark your calendar
Local 655 Outstate Union Meeting and New Member Orientation
Pizza Hut restaurant, 1324 Westwood Dr., Poplar Bluff
New Member Orientation – 5:30 p.m. Union Meeting – 6 p.m.

COLOR OUR WORLD
PRIDE FEST
ST. LOUIS

Show your **PRIDE**
St. Louis Pride Parade
June 28 • 11 a.m.
Downtown St. Louis
For more info contact
Laura Kelley at 636-736-2760

OUTreach
UFCW Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Labor & Our Allies

Join Local 655 for its first
OUTReach meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 8 at the Union Hall.

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