



Feel the Power

Our Right to Prosper and So-Called Right-to-Work

Our country is about more than just low wage jobs. What makes America different is that it's about more than work; our country is about the opportunity to get ahead and prosper. The corporate-backed elitists pushing so-called "right-to-work" are out to cut your pay, destroy your pension and weaken your union. It's a well-funded nationwide effort and we must fight to stop them.

Our Right to Prosper is under attack by right-to-work laws that undermine your union, threaten training programs, cut wages, destroy good benefits, and jeopardize pensions.

- "Right-to-work" allows workers to opt-out of their fair share of union dues, stretching your union to the breaking point by forcing it to cover "free riders."
- "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 and no career ladder. 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.
- 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.

America is about prosperity for all but "right-to-work" laws hit the pocketbooks of women and minorities hard by threatening their unions.

- 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.
- "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.