



The Truth About Right to Work

Why are Right to Work (for Less) laws being proposed now? The November 2010 elections brought to power many anti-union lawmakers and governors throughout the United States. In more than two dozen states these politicians are proposing laws to weaken unions, including: so-called “right to work” (for LESS) laws. These proposals are part of a well-coordinated campaign backed by corporations that spent more than \$1 billion to influence the election.

The politicians who support right-to-work (for LESS) laws support tax breaks for corporations and CEOs. Politicians know unions are a check on corporate power, so they are working to weaken or eliminate them.

What is Right to Work (for LESS?)

“Right to work” (for LESS) laws don’t guarantee any rights or any work. They let workers who pay nothing get all the benefits of union contracts. They force unions to use their time and members’ dues money to provide union benefits to freeloaders who won’t pay their fair share. They weaken unions at the negotiating table.

What is the Impact of Right to Work (for Less) laws?

- **“Right to work” laws lower wages for everyone.** The average worker in states with “right to work” (for LESS) laws makes \$5,538 a year less than workers in other states.
- **They endanger safety and health standards that protect workers on the job.** The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the rate of workplace deaths is 52.9 percent higher in states with these “right to work” for less laws.
- **They make it harder for unionized employers to compete for business.** nonunion firms can gain a competitive advantage based on low-wage, no-benefit jobs.
- **They hurt communities by lowering workers’ buying power.** Higher unionization within a community means consumers have more to spend. That’s good for local companies, especially those in retail sales and services.

What can you do about it?

The Teamsters are working with other unions statewide to defeat this proposal. Get involved with the movement to fight back against these efforts to weaken working families. Call your legislators and tell them to oppose “right to work” (for LESS) proposals. Tell them it’s time for politicians to work together to create jobs in our state instead of paying back their political enemies.