WHAT IS "RIGHT TO WORK"?

"Right to work" is an extreme political agenda being pushed by corporate special interests. It is designed for a single purpose: to weaken the basic rights of workers so corporations have more and workers have less. The most well-known supporters of these laws are the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and the National Right to Work Committee – all groups with a history of promoting corporate greed and power.

WHY "RIGHT TO WORK" PROPONENTS ARE WRONG:

"Right to work" supporters hide behind the claim that it protects workers who don't want to join a union or finance its political activities. But federal labor law already protects these workers.

The true purpose of "right to work" is to limit the ability of unions to advocate for all workers because that advocacy decreases corporate power.

"RIGHT TO WORK" MEANS LOWER WAGES AND LOWER INCOMES.

The average worker in a "right to work" state makes $5,971 a year less when accounting for the cost of living.

Median household income in states with these laws is $6,568 less than in other states.

In states with "right to work" laws, 25.9% of jobs are in low wage occupations, compared with 18% of jobs in other states.

"RIGHT TO WORK" LEADS TO UNSAFE WORKPLACES.

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 54.4% higher in "right to work" states.

"RIGHT TO WORK" DOES NOT DELIVER ON ITS PROMISES.

Research from Professor Gordon Lafer of the University of Oregon has concluded that "right to work" laws hurt more than they help:

- "Right to work" laws have no impact in boosting economic growth: research shows that there is no relationship between "right to work" laws and state unemployment rates, state per capita income, or state job growth.
- "Right to work" laws have no significant impact on attracting employers to a particular state; surveys of employers show that "right to work" laws are a minor or non-existent factor in location decisions.
- "Right to work" laws threaten to undermine job growth by reducing the discretionary income people have to spend in the local retail, real estate, construction, and service industries. Every $1 million in wage cuts translates to an additional six jobs lost in the economy.

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