



Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman
Congressman Connie Mack (R-FL), RSC Repeal Task Force Chairman

Repeal Mandatory Union Dues

February 1, 2012

Background: On May 26, 2011, Rep. Steve King (R-IA) introduced H.R. 2040, National Right to Work Act.

The 1935 National Labor Relations Act allowed unions and employers to agree to mandate that union membership or payment to a union be required by all employees. In other words, this law prevented U.S. employees from having ability to choose whether or not to join a labor union, as the choice was a condition of employment if the company was unionized. The Taft-Hartley Act (1947) allowed states to pass “right-to-work” laws, thereby giving them the ability to opt out of this federal regulation. However, today forced-dues are still the default position by federal law unless the individual states decide to pass “right-to-work” legislation.

What We Know:

- **What The Bill Will Do:** This bill amends the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal those provisions that permit employers, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement that is a union security agreement, to require employees to join a union as a condition of employment. It will repeal this to ensure that ‘forced-dues’ is not the federally required default position.
- **Why This Is Necessary:** The federal government should not force states into an ‘anti-right-to-work’ position. While the states can currently pass ‘right-to-work’ legislation, they should not need to do so in the first place. What is more, right to work status clearly gives states an economic leg up on other states. According to a Cato Journal study, around 4.7 million Americans moved to right-to-work states between 2000 and 2008, and the per-capita income rose 23 percent faster in right-to-work states from 1977 to 2007. It is time to make it easier for the nation as a whole to have a similar leg up in the economy.
- **Government Gone Wild:** Twenty seven states currently are known as ‘forced-dues’ states, where a union can have employees fired for refusing to pay dues. Only twenty three states have been able to overcome this federal regulation and give the freedom of this economic choice back to employees. This is an irresponsible system allowed by laws which unfairly empower unions over American workers.

Conclusion: The federal government should not require the forcing of union dues upon all employees as a default position. This federal regulation is bad for the economy and hinders employee freedom. This bill will repeal this regulation and give the choice directly back to the states.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: All RSC Members are encouraged to support H.R. 2040. Please contact Jason Yaworske at Jason.Yaworske@mail.house.gov to cosponsor this legislation.

If you would like to participate in the RSC Repeal Task Force, please email Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

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“The RSC Repeal Task Force’s mission is to put our nation onto a path of greater economic freedom by eliminating U.S. federal laws and regulations that impede or inhibit economic growth, prosperity and opportunity.”