

THE TRUTH ABOUT 'Right To Work' for Less



Right to Work is a deceptive term and does not give anyone the “right” to “work.” It is being pushed by big political donors that favor corporate interests over working people and the middle class.

The real goal of Right To Work laws is to put unions out of business and weaken workers’ rights and collective power. It does that by allowing some employees to receive the full benefits of a union contract without contributing to the cost of negotiating or enforcing it.

Federal and state laws already protect workers who don’t want to join a union. This “freedom” argument is a sham. Supporters claim ‘Right to Work’ laws protect employees from being forced to join unions. Yet our laws already do this, and protect nonmembers from paying for union activities that violate their religious or political beliefs.

Impact of ‘Right to Work’ for Less

Unions

- **Weakens unions and workers’ protections**
- **Lowers wages for union workers and everyone else.** *The average worker in RTW states makes \$5,538 a year less than workers in other states. Working families in non-RTW states also benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.*
- **Fair share fee payers would not pay any dues at all while still benefiting from their union contract.** *This forces unions to use their time and members’ dues money to provide union benefits to free riders who would not have to pay their fair share.*
- **Unfair to dues-paying members.** *The union represents everyone – so everyone should share in those costs.*
- **Endanger safety and health standards that protect workers on the job.** *Workplace deaths are 52.9% higher in RTW states (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Unions have a long history of fighting for tougher workplace safety and health rules. RTW laws weaken unions’ ability to maintain and strengthen workplace safety and health standards.*

Education

- **RTW states spend less to educate their children than we do in Minnesota.**

	MN	RTW states
2008-09 \$ spent per student	\$10,996	\$9,005
- **8th grade students in RTW states are less proficient in basic math and reading skills.**

	MN	RTW states
Proficient in math	43.1%	29.6%
Proficient in reading	36.6%	22.1%
- **RTW state students are less likely to graduate from high school and college than in Minnesota.**

	MN	RTW states
Graduated high school	91.1%	84.9%
Graduated college	31.1%	24.5%
- **Minnesota invests more per student on education than 20 of the 22 RTW states.**
Two RTW states spend less than \$6,000 per student - Arizona (\$5,932) and Utah (\$5,912).



VOTE NO
on constitutional amendments that attack human rights, civil rights, & worker rights!

SOURCES: MN AFL-CIO, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Minnesota Compared With Right To Work States

Measure	Minnesota	# RTW States MN outperforms (out of 22)	RTW Average
Life expectancy	80.9	22	74.4
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	4.8	22	7.3
Poverty rate	9.6%	22	13.3%
Children under 6 living in poverty	13.2%	21	21.1%
Adults over 65 living in poverty	8.6%	21	10%
Share of population with high school diploma	91.6%	21	81.7%
Share of population with college degree	31.5%	21	21.4%
Median personal income	\$31,445	21	\$26,381
Per capita GDP	41,573	21	32,457
Households with food insecurity	9.5%	20	11.3%
Share of population without health insurance	9.6%	22	16.6%
Unemployment rate (May 2010)	7%	15	9.2%

SOURCES

- Life expectancy: AHDP calculations using mortality counts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Mortality - All County Micro-Data File (2007), as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Population counts are from the CDC WONDER Database, July 1 2007 estimates (2008 Vintage). Data are for 2007.
- Share of population with high school diploma: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Table B15002. Data are for 2008.
- Share of population with college degree: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Table B15002. Data are for 2008.
- Median personal income: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Table B20017. Data are for 2008. Children under 6 living in poverty: AHDP calculations based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Tables B17001. Data are for 2008.
- Adults over 65 living in poverty: AHDP calculations based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Tables B17001. Data are for 2008.
- Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infant Mortality Statistics from the 2005 Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set. National Vital Statistics
- Households with food insecurity: U.S. Department of Agriculture. Household Food Security in the United States, 2007. Tables 5 & 7. Data are for 2007.
- Share of population without health insurance: Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser State HealthFacts, <http://www.statehealthfacts.org>. Calculated by the Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid
- Per capita GDP: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. News Release: GDP by State 2008. Table 1-4. Data are for 2008.
- Poverty rate: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008. Tables GCT1701, B17001. Data are for 2008.
- Unemployment rate (May 2010): U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Civilian Noninstitutional Population (preliminary). Data are for May 2010