

Talking About: “Right to Work”



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“Right to Work”: Not What It Seems *Wrong for Workers & the Middle Class*

What We Know

- North Carolina has had a so-called “Right to Work” (RTW) law since 1947, so adding it to the state constitution after 70 years is **unnecessary, wastes taxpayer dollars, and moves North Carolina in the wrong direction.**
- These laws **hurt the middle class.** They do not create jobs and can in fact lower wages.
- In states with these laws, **workers make an average of \$1,550 less per year.**
- 9 of the 15 states plus DC with the highest unemployment rate have these laws in place.

Complicated, Confusing, and Politically Motivated

- So-called RTW is a **complicated** attempt by CEOs and corporate interests to end unions as we know them and stack the deck in their favor at the expense of the middle class.
- So-called RTW is a **confusing** issue that corporate interests use to fool and divide us, but RTW really means less freedom for working people, not more.
- So-called RTW is a **politically motivated** attempt to turn out Republican voters in the midterm election in 2018.
- **Real freedom in the workplace is about being able to balance life and work,** attend a parent-teacher conference, take a loved one to the doctor, and have time for what matters in life without feeling like you’re falling behind at work. This is what we need to work toward, not laws like these.

Eliminating Unions

- So-called RTW is a **“free rider” law.** Free rider laws force union members to cover the costs of representing workers who do not contribute dues - making it harder for working people to work together to raise wages, improve benefits, and secure their economic freedom.
- These laws attempt to weaken or completely get rid of unions. Without unions, corporate special interests can **ship more jobs overseas,** turn more full time jobs into part time positions, and treat more employees like a number and give them **less control and flexibility in the workplace.**