



Fact Sheet on Right To Work Legislation

Bill HR 785- Introduced 2/1/17- National Right To Work Act- This bill was sponsored by Rep. Steven King (R-IA) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)

Several states have already passed Right to Work legislation and by many measures, quality of life is worse in those states with right to work laws (WI, OH, MI as well as many of the southern states who have had this measure for some time). Wages are lower, people are less likely to have health insurance and the necessary resources for a quality education; poverty levels are higher as are workplace fatality rates. It isn't even what businesses are looking for.

States with Right to Work Laws Have Lower Wages and Incomes - On average, workers in states with right to work laws make \$6,109 a year (12.1%) less annually than workers in other states (\$44,401, compared with \$50,511). Median household income in states with these laws is \$8,174 (13.9%) less than in other states (\$50,712 vs. \$58,886). 29.6 percent of jobs in right to work states were in low-wage occupations, compared with 22.8% of jobs in other states.

States with Right to Work Laws Have Lower Rates of Health Insurance Coverage - People under the age of 65 in states with right to work laws are more likely to be uninsured (13.0%, compared with 9.4% in free-bargaining states). Only 47% of private-sector employers in states with these laws offer insurance coverage to their employees, compared with 52.2% in other states. That difference is even more pronounced among employers with fewer than 50 workers: only 30.1% offer health insurance compared with 38.1% of small employers in other states. Workers in right to work states also pay a larger share of their health insurance premiums, on average, than those in free-bargaining states (28.5% of the premium compared with 25.4% in free-bargaining states).

States with Right to Work Laws Have Higher Poverty and Infant Mortality Rates - Poverty rates are higher in states with right to work laws (15.3% overall and 21.4% for children), compared with poverty rates of 12.8% overall and 18.0% for children in states without these laws. The infant mortality rate is 12.4% higher in states with right to work laws.

States with Right to Work Laws Invest Less in Education - States with right to work laws spend 32.5% less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than other states.

States with Right to Work Laws Have Higher Workplace Fatality Rates - The rate of workplace deaths is 49% higher in states with right to work laws, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

States with Right to Work Laws are not a great boon to businesses - Right-to-work laws do not improve business conditions in states. Right to work is not a deciding factor in where businesses locate. High-tech companies that provide good-paying, American jobs favor states where unions have a strong presence, because unions provide a high-skilled workforce and decrease turnover.

For more information, please contact: Coalition of Labor Union Women
www.cluw.org (202) 508-6969