

So-called “Right-to-Work” is WRONG for Wisconsin

Violation of private contract rights.

Businesses in the construction industry *voluntarily* enter into private contracts with unions because the contracts provide companies with skilled labor without the hassle of safety and skills training, providing health and other benefits, and drug screening—services which are provided by the union. Construction industry unions act much like a staffing agency and provide businesses with high-quality employees who know how to safely do their jobs. No employee is forced to work at a construction company that has a private contract with a union. Right-to-work would invalidate these private contracts. ***Government should stay out of private contracts!***

A distraction Wisconsin cannot afford.

As Governor Walker has repeatedly reminded Wisconsin, *private unions are partners* in Wisconsin’s economic development efforts.^[4] The so-called right-to-work movement is a political distraction^[5] that has no practical benefits. Let’s keep Wisconsin’s eye on the real goal... economic development for Wisconsin with the support of important private sector partners like the construction industry.

Greater burden on taxpayers.

There are not enough skilled workers to satisfy Wisconsin businesses’ needs.^[1] Construction industry unions provide private sector training of their workers through their state-of-the-art private training facilities and apprenticeship programs. These programs are provided to workers ***without government subsidies or taxpayer support***. So-called “right-to-work” would cut off the private sector money used to fund these training and apprenticeship programs. Who is going to train the highly-skilled labor force needed by the construction industry if the private sector is no longer able to afford to do so? Taxpayers through an increased burden on the technical college system.

Claimed economic benefits are unproven.

Only three states in the last 15 years have enacted right to work legislation, and it’s too early to tell the impact in two of those states. But we know the impact of right-to-work in Oklahoma: a 1/3 decrease in new manufacturing business growth and no significant decrease in unemployment following the first ten years after right-to-work passed.^[2]

Site Selection Magazine’s 2014 survey results identify transportation infrastructure, ease of permitting, and existing workforce skills as the top three drivers for businesses looking to locate in a state. Union activity did not even make the top 10 this year.^[3]

This begs the question of why any legislator or third party would waste time and energy on right-to-work? ***Improving our transportation infrastructure and streamlining regulatory processes should be top priorities for Wisconsin, not right-to-work.***