



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

## Strength in Numbers 95,000

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# LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

## DECEPTIVE 'RIGHT TO WORK' IS WRONG FOR WORKERS

**“Right to work” legislation is being promoted by corporate special interest groups and big multinational corporations that ship jobs overseas and offshore their profits to avoid paying taxes. This deceptive legislation weakens collective bargaining rights, which would tilt the balance in our state even more toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of middle-class families.**

- **Right to work legislation puts our families' safety at risk.** It would make it harder for nurses to negotiate for safe staffing levels, and limit the ability of emergency responders, police officers and firefighters to negotiate for things to keep us all safe—like faster response times and lifesaving emergency equipment. This legislation limits the rights of our state's everyday heroes, silences the professional voices of teachers, nurses, police officers and firefighters, and makes it harder for them to protect and serve.
- **These laws endanger safety and health standards that protect workers on the job.** Unions have a long history of fighting for tougher workplace safety and health rules. By weakening unions, right to work laws weaken workers' ability through their unions to maintain and strengthen workplace safety and health standards. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of workplace deaths is 49% higher in states with these laws.<sup>1</sup>
- **Right to work laws lower wages for everyone.** The average worker in states with these laws makes \$6,109 a year less than workers in other states (\$44,401, compared with \$50,511).<sup>2</sup> Because of the higher wages, working families states without these laws also benefit from healthier tax bases that improve their quality of life.
- **Right to work legislation is unnecessary.** Under federal law, no one can be forced to join a union. And the Supreme Court ruled long ago that union-represented workers can never be forced to pay dues for union political activities they disagree with.
- **Right to work legislation would allow the government to interfere unfairly in the freedoms of private businesses and employees.** This proposed legislation would weaken our right to collectively bargain, limiting our freedom to bargain for respect, fair pay and safety on the job.
- **These laws are unfair to dues-paying union members.** For example, they require a union to spend its time and money representing a non member who pays no dues—even if the battle is long and costly. Since the union represents everyone, everyone benefits—so everyone should share in the costs. Amazingly, non members who don't pay dues can sue the union if they think it has not represented them well enough.
- **Right to work legislation is the wrong priority for our state right now.** Our state legislature should focus on strengthening our economy and making sure it works for all state residents. We need to create more good jobs. We need to stop giving tax dollars to companies that ship work overseas. We need to close unfair corporate tax loopholes and stop employer fraud that deprives workers of rights and allows corporations to cheat on their taxes. But none of that will happen if corporate special interests pass this extreme bill—because it tilts the balance of power even more toward big corporations, at the expense of middle-class families.