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Testimony
State Representative Daryl Metcalfe,
Majority Chairman of the House State Government Committee,
before the
House Labor and Industry Committee
August 16, 2011.

Good afternoon, I'm State Representative Daryl Metcalfe.

Thank you **Chairman Miller** for convening today's hearing.

Right to Work is a basic issue of individual liberty.

Regardless of occupation, hard-working taxpayers should never be forced to **pay union dues** in exchange for the **Right to Work**.

In virtually every public opinion poll conducted in the last 20 years, no less than 70 percent of all Pennsylvanians favor enactment of a Right to Work law.

The framers of our Constitution never intended for our government to become an enforcer for unions or a collection agency of forced union dues, at taxpayer expense.

Pennsylvania, without a **Right to Work Law**, encourages coercive union practices in both the public and private sectors.

Under my Right to Work legislation, **House Bill 50**, the **Freedom of Employment Act**, and the rest of the **Pennsylvania Open Workforce Initiative (House Bills 51-53)**, employment would no longer be conditional upon membership or non-membership in a union, nor upon payment or non-payment of money to a labor organization.

By forcing an employee to pay any fee to a union, whether it is full dues or partial dues, and whether it includes membership rights or it doesn't, that is in itself creating forced-unionism by default.

Without this Right to Work legislation, Pennsylvania's working citizens will continue to be deprived of their individual right to decide which private organizations they will join or support, and our entire economy suffers.

Forced-unionism states, such as Pennsylvania, experience **lost individual freedom**, **lost income**, **lost jobs**, **lost population** and **increasing welfare rolls**.

America's 22 Right to Work states consistently lead the nation in all aspects of real **economic growth** and **overall quality of life**, with **higher net jobs gained**, **lower taxation**, **more people with private or employment-based health insurance**, and **fewer individuals dependent on state welfare**.

In fact, **nine** of the **Top 10 Chief Executive Magazine's "2010 Best States to Do Business"** have a **Right to Work Law**.

Currently, **Pennsylvania** ranks **39th** out of **50 states** in overall **economic competitiveness**, **third highest** on the list of **outbound job states** and has suffered **stagnant population growth** since 2000 that has resulted in the loss of **three congressional seats** through **redistricting**.

According to the Department of Commerce and Bureau of Labor Statistics, between 1999 and 2009, right to work states have experienced **28.3 percent growth** in **real personal income** as opposed to only **14.7 percent** in **forced-unionism states**.

The U.S. Administration of Children and Families and the Bureau of the Census reported for 2009 that the number of welfare recipients per **1,000 residents** was **17.3** in forced-unionism states, such as Pennsylvania, compared to only **7.6 in right to work states**.

The Bureau of the Census further reported that the percentage growth in number of people covered by **private or employment-based health insurance** increased by **.9 percent** in **right to work states** and **decreased** by **6.9 percent** in **forced-unionism states**.

According to U.S. Labor Department data, between 2003 and 2005, **private-sector job growth** in **forced-unionism states** increased by only **2.3 percent**, while **private-sector job growth** in **right to work states** increased by **4.9 percent**, or roughly **120 percent more**.

The lack of a **Right to Work law** in Pennsylvania, also, without question, **increases political corruption**.

Since the passage of Pennsylvania's "Agency Shop" Law in 1988, nearly **20,000 non-union state employees** have lost their individual freedom to decide whether or not to join or support a union.

As a result, millions of dollars are collected annually by the state from non-union members in the form of compulsory union fees and sent directly to the coffers of state employee unions,

such as **AFSCME**, the **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**, all at the taxpayers' expense.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of State, **AFSCME Council 13** spent approximately **\$863,310.79** during the 2010 election cycle.

Not surprisingly, **94 percent** of that total went to support **Democrat candidates** and **Democrat political action committees**, providing the **unfair bargaining power** necessary to drive state government employee salaries and benefits higher and higher.

Since June 2004, state government employee salaries have risen from a median average of **\$39,037** to **\$45,105**.

In comparison, the **median average earnings** for Pennsylvania's private sector employees stands at **\$32,239**.

As cited by Governor Tom Corbett during his 2011-12 state budget address:

"...since the recession began, the state's union employees have seen annual increases.

The private sector, the taxpayer, has seen its average income stagnate."

Passage of the **Pennsylvania Open Workforce Initiative** would place the power back into the hands of the employees who would be able to hold their union and their employer accountable, by either choosing to join or leave a union at any time.

Best of all, the **total taxpayer cost** of restoring the fundamental **Right to Work** whereby all Pennsylvania working citizens will never again have to fear losing their jobs or not being able to support their families due to compulsory unionism is **absolutely ZERO**.

The facts could not be clearer: realizing the exclusive individual and financial liberties associated with becoming **America's 23rd Right to Work State**, enacting the **Pennsylvania Open Workforce Initiative**, is the true economic stimulus plan, leading to **unprecedented growth** and **real job creation**. It's a zero-cost initiative that makes a lot of sense.

Thank you.