

Governor Pritzker: “ILLINOIS WILL NEVER BE A RIGHT TO WORK STATE!”



Illinois Governor JB Pritzker (www2.illinois.gov)

The new law prevents Right to Work ordinances from confiscating employee property at the city and county level.

Starting immediately, workers in Illinois will no longer have their property and labor taken away from them under city-level Right to Work laws.

The legislation, signed this week by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, will prevent city and county officials from creating a patchwork of separate Right to Work zones across the state.

Governor Pritzker said in [his signing statement](#) that the new law would help ensure that “Illinois and all of its communities will never be a Right to Work state.”

"From the start, right to work was an idea cooked up to lower wages, slash benefits and hurt our working families," Pritzker said in a statement. "'Right to work' has always meant, 'right to work for less money,' and it's wrong for Illinois."

Around the nation, corporate lobbyists have used Right to Work legislation to eliminate pensions and slash wages for their employees. Last year, the Supreme Court added another twist to Right to Work - forcing employee groups to turn over their property and work to anti-union forces on demand.

"Imagine a law that would 'protect' cable subscribers from being 'forced' to pay for cable," explained Machinists Union District 141 Legislative Director, Dave Roderick. "A law like that would bankrupt cable companies overnight."

"That's what Right to Work does. It's an attempt to bankrupt unions by forcing them to give their work away for free. Right to Work advocates want to work at union workplaces, and collect union wages. They also want costly contract negotiations and enforcement, but they don't want to help pay for any of it."

Supporters of Right to Work argue that employees would make more money overall if they earned smaller paychecks and do not get a pension when they retire. Since unions stand in the way of those things, Right to Work advocates seek to defund them.

Former Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, who collected an unknown amount of campaign donations from anti-union lobbyists, has pointed to a [recent Seattle wage study](#) that he claims proves that lower wage earners make more money than those with higher rates of pay.

Rauner is a billionaire.

In Illinois, the township of Lincolnshire had passed a Right to Work ordinance in hopes of bankrupting unions within its borders back in 2015. Local unions filed a successful lawsuit to stop the measure from going into effect, which was upheld after the city appealed.

The courts found that only the state had the legal authority to enact such laws, and the union that filed the suit was awarded \$10,000 in damages by the city. (International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150.)

The new legislation will buttress the court decisions, asserting that only the state can create Right to Work zones. “The law, as it is, does not allow a state to hand this responsibility down to the local communities.” Governor Pritzker said in a statement to the Chicago Tribune. “This bill actually just establishes what is the law today.”

It’s unclear how much money Right to Work lobbyists lost in the failed attempt to create city and county Right to Work zones in Illinois. The rules were vigorously promoted by the former governor, Bruce Rauner and a range of corporate lobbyists and courts that have accepted money from them.

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