



**** ACTION ALERT ****

Join the fight for your rights!

House Bill 432 is so-called “Right to Work” legislation—attacking workers’ rights to organize for better wages and safer working conditions. It will be heard in House Labor & Economic Development Committee on Saturday, February 25.

What: Hearing on HB432, Attacking Workers’ Rights

When: 9:00am, Saturday, February 25, 2017

Where: House Chambers of the State Capitol in Santa Fe

HB432: *Employee Preference Act (Townsend & others)*

HB 432 is a “right to work” measure that would cripple the ability of labor organizations to negotiate better wages and safer working conditions for New Mexico’s workers.

The bill would restrict unions from collecting “fair share” fees from non-members to cover the costs of the union’s legal obligation to represent those workers in collective bargaining and grievance procedures. It would also bar employers from exercising their right to hire only union-trained and certified workers.

So-called “right to work” laws are unfair, unnecessary and hurt the middle class.



Why So-Called “Right to Work” is WRONG for New Mexico:

Wages: Median household income in right-to-work (RTW) states is \$6,437 lower than in free-bargaining states—including both union and non-union households. Even adjusting for differences in cost of living and 41 other factors, workers in free-bargaining states are significantly better off than their counterparts in right-to-work states—averaging \$1,500 more per worker. The contrasts are even starker in specific industries: right-to-work laws drive down wages in the manufacturing sector by 9%, and in the construction sector by 22%!

Healthcare: Right-to-work laws reduce the share of workers covered by a health plan by 3.5%. As a result, workers in RTW states are more likely to rely on taxpayer-subsidized health care.

Safety: So-called “right to work” states are much less safe for workers. In the construction industry alone, workplace fatality rates are 36.5% higher than in free-bargaining states.

Education: It’s no surprise that right-to-work states—which suffer lower wages, reduced benefits, and worse safety records—also bear the hallmarks of a stressed society: students are less likely to perform at appropriate grade level in math and reading.