

**Testimony submitted by**

**Susan Staub, President  
Pennsylvanians for Right to Work, Inc.**

**Before the House Labor Relations Committee  
on Tuesday, August 16, 2011**

**In Support of Pennsylvania Open Workforce Initiative  
H.B. 50, 51, 52, and 53**

My name is Susan Staub and I am President of Pennsylvanians for Right to Work. Our members across the Commonwealth are from all walks of life and they believe that individual freedom and liberty in the work place is one of the vital elements of our nation's economic and political achievements of the past and is critical to its future.

Our organization is committed to the preservation of individual freedom in the work place. We vehemently oppose compulsory unionism laws which result in forced dues contracts that infringe on the constitutional freedom of association. We believe that a Right to Work law is the only iron-clad guarantee that every worker will have the freedom to make his or her own decision about whether or not to join or support a union. We also oppose so-called "agency shop" laws in the public sector such as Act 84 over state and education employees and Act 15 over local government employees.

Right to Work states like Arkansas and Mississippi have a much lower cost of living than Pennsylvania. According to a study done by CNBC<sup>1</sup>, Mississippi ranks at the 13th lowest cost of living in the nation while Arkansas is at number 3. By comparison, Pennsylvania ranks at a disappointing number 30.

Additionally, Right to Work states have a much lower cost of doing business and are thus more likely to attract jobs. Pennsylvania ranks at number 40. Mississippi is number 11, Arkansas is number 2, and Iowa is number 1. No

wonder Pennsylvania is losing jobs like Mack Trucks, Caterpillar, and Carlisle Tire and Wheel! A Right to Work law for Pennsylvania is an economic stimulus bill that would bring businesses and jobs to our Commonwealth without costing the taxpayers one cent!

The top 5 states for donations to charity as a percentage of income were all Right to Work states according to the Opportunity Index released by the Catalogue for Philanthropy Giving<sup>2</sup>. The bottom five were all coercive Unionism states. Pennsylvania ranked at a disappointing 41<sup>st</sup> out of 50. When workers get to keep more of their money, they can give more freely to charities and organizations of their choice.

Requiring employees to either join or pay dues to a labor union or any other private organization is both unconscionable and Unconstitutional. No one should be forced to associate with a private organization against his or her will.

On behalf of our members, I respectfully urge that H.B. 50, 51, 52, and 53 be passed, so that the people of Pennsylvania will benefit from legislation that reflects sound fiscal public policy that encourages economic growth.

A 2010 Lincoln Institute survey found that 93% of respondents support a Right to Work law for our Commonwealth.

Fighting against coercive Unionism is not a partisan issue either. In North Carolina, a Right to Work State, the Democratic Party is being boycotted by the

Unions for holding their convention in a place without Unionized workers. Both parties need to stand up to this kind of thuggery.

Surely our own citizens are as deserving as those who have benefited in Right to Work states.

1 =

[http://m.cnbc.com/id/37642856/CNBC s Top States For Business 2010 And The Winner Is Texas](http://m.cnbc.com/id/37642856/CNBC_s_Top_States_For_Business_2010_And_The_Winner_Is_Texas)

2 - <http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/cfp/db/generosity.php?year=2004>