



UNION MEMBERSHIP

FORCED OR FREE? – PROTECT THE WORKERS

- ✓ Unions have protected workers from the abuses of an industrialized society.
- ✓ Unions have negotiated better and safer working conditions for workers
- ✓ Unions have protected workers from exploitation by improving wages and benefits

**Americans support union representation. It's an American tradition.
But union membership is declining, particularly in the private sector. Why?**

1. Help the Economy and You Help the Workers / Middle Class

In addition to enhancing working conditions, wages and benefits, unions have a duty to refrain from negotiating contracts that primarily benefit management, but cripple the ability of companies to be healthy, competitive job generators.

2. Are unions today doing the best for their employees? Are unions creating robust economic conditions that result in job growth?

Employment and Income in Right to Work States vs Forced Union States

<u>1999-2009</u>	<u>Right to Work States*</u>	<u>Forced Union States</u>
Private sector Employment	Grew by 3.7%	Shrank by 2.8%
Real Personal Income	Rose 28.3%	Sank by 14.7%
Cost-of-living-adjusted Per capita disposable income	\$35,543	\$33,389

National Institute for Labor Relations Research - www.nilrr.org

3. Unions fight Right to Work legislation and attempt to limit their power

(The Wisconsin Capitol experienced at least \$700,000 worth of damage from protestors)

4. If unions do what is best to balance supporting workers with ensuring a robust market...

They would not need to be coercive. Apple doesn't have to coerce us to buy iPhones and iPads because they produce superior products, and people scramble to buy them!

FDR did not support forced union membership, and none other than Samuel Gompers – the founder of the American Federation of Labor said: *"I want to urge devotion to the fundamentals of human liberty, the principles of voluntarism. No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible."*

What you can do

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