

Right to work is not right for WV

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Today as I scrolled across the website of West Virginia's political parties, I came across something interesting on the West Virginia Republican Party's front page. It was an article titled, "ICYMI: Right to Work is Right for WV."

Friends, seeing this was very startling considering the Republicans in West Virginia now have enough leverage to pass this kind of legislation. There is nothing right about right-to-work, unless you are big corporate boss of course (the pocket-fillers of the Republican Party in WV).

There are many reasons right-to-work is wrong for West Virginia. A vote for right to-work is a vote for lower wages. Wages in right-to-work states are about \$1,500 less per year for all workers. Workers in right-to-work states are also less likely to have health insurance, both of these statistics come from the Economic Policy Institute.

Lower wages and no health insurance? Wow, GOP – seems like a great economic fix! Also, workplace deaths in right-to-work states are 52.9% higher according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics – imagine what that would mean for a state that ALREADY has mine safety issues.

Also, despite the Republican narrative that right-to-work helps attract businesses there are multiple studies that contradict their statement. According to the Review of Law & Economics, right-to-work laws do not improve business conditions in states. Also according to Area Development, right-to-work is NOT a deciding factor in where businesses locate. Good for the economy? Nope, the Economic Policy Institute once again says that for every \$1 million in wages cut that the local economy will shed six jobs.

Also, according to a report from Ohio University, these laws led to a decrease in employment in certain industries. Did you know that 12 of the states with the highest unemployment rate have right-to-work laws?

My friends, we must vote out the irresponsible lawmakers that are trying to enact right-to-work legislation and tell their corporate backers to take a hike!

Right-to-work is WRONG for West Virginia! Remember, everyone has a right to living wages and healthcare – not just your boss.