



## National Right To Work Committee

A COALITION OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

April 11, 2017

California General Assembly  
California State Capitol  
1315 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Assembly Bill 1174**

POSITION: **Support**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of the National Right to Work Committee in California, and the nearly 80% of Californians who oppose forced unionism, I urge you to **support Assembly Bill 1174**.

Simply put, a state Right to Work law would make it illegal to force workers to join a union or pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment.

Of course, every worker would still have the right to join or support a labor union, only now it would be his or her decision to make.

The constitutional guarantee of freedom of association and the principles of ordinary decency are violated whenever any worker is forced to join or pay dues or fees to a private organization in order to earn a living.

Yet every day, thousands labor under the requirement that they pay union dues -- or be fired.

This is unconscionable.

Indeed, even Samuel Gompers, the founding President of the American Federation of Labor, argued against forced unionism, noting that, "No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion."

But a Right to Work law wouldn't just protect the freedom of individual workers. All citizens would win in the improved economic climate a Right to Work law would foster in California.

Studies have repeatedly shown that Right to Work states have a huge advantage in creating jobs and expanding their economies.

According to PHH Fantus, the nation's leading business relocation firm, half of all companies that are seeking to relocate or expand automatically rule out forced-unionism states.

In fact, in the past decade, non-agricultural employment in Right to Work states grew twice as fast compared to that in non-Right to Work states like California.

Individual citizens of California would also benefit from passage of A.B. 1174.

A recent study by Dr. Barry Poulson, a past president of the North American Economics and Finance Association and professor of economics at the University of Colorado, compared household incomes in 133 metropolitan areas in Right to Work states with those of 158 metropolitan areas in non-Right to Work states.

Among other results, he found that the 2002 average real income for households in Right to Work state metro areas, when all else was equal, was \$4,258 more than non-Right to Work state metro areas.

The conclusion is clear: The economic benefits of a Right to Work law are too strong to be ignored.

No American should be required to join a labor union just to keep a job, and no Californian should be compelled to pay dues to an organization he or she does not believe in.

In the interests of the rights of the working men and women of California, of sound public policy and of basic fairness, I urge you to **support Assembly Bill 1174** at every opportunity.

Sincerely,



Mark Mix  
President