

more responsive to the needs of its members. They claim it is necessary to keep Missouri economically competitive against neighboring states and that it will increase wages for Missourians, and that compulsory union fees violate worker's rights of association. The law will make union dues voluntary, rather than coerced, as a condition of employment, which gives workers a choice regarding how their dues are spent. Others say that new businesses will be attracted to the state bringing more jobs and improving the economy for all workers.³

CON: Primary opposition to right-to-work laws comes from union leadership and some union workers. Those unions that oppose worker freedom to opt out of a mandatory relationship argue that these laws lower wages for workers and hurt working families. Opponents also argue that the bill is an anti-union piece of legislation that will increase unsafe working conditions. They maintain that workers will not get the same benefits received by union workers and these laws jeopardize that workplace safety.⁴

Missouri, like other once powerful union strongholds, is not the only state that moved toward worker freedom in the past decade. Recently, both Wisconsin (2015) and Michigan (2013) have chosen to become right-to-work states in the wake of the economic downturn of 2008.⁵

Endnotes:

¹ <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/petitions/2018BallotMeasures>

² Formally the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, creates private sector employees rights to organize unions, pursue collective bargaining for terms and conditions at work, and to strike.

³ Sherk, James. Right-to-Work Laws: Myth vs. Fact, December 12, 2014 <http://www.heritage.org/jobs-and-labor/report/right-work-laws-myth-vs-fact>. Accessed 6/20/17

⁴ https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/after-overnight-debate-senate-oks-changing-date-of-right-to/article_fb145143-1244-5ed5-8e9d-7d3447fd05ee.html#utm_source=stltoday.com&utm_campaign=BreakingNewsNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=6D27D7E622C72C9361451C9EDEB98CA4FF848AC2

⁵ Mooney, Kevin. Decline of Unions Under Right-to-Work Laws Levels Playing Field for Trump, February 19, 2017. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2017/02/19/decline-of-unions-under-right-to-work-laws-levels-playing-field-for-trump> Accessed 2/20/17.

