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**St. Louis Gateway District Area Local American Postal Workers Union Takes Public Stance on Right to Work Legislation**

The “Right to Work” law states that,“no person shall be denied employment on account of membership or non-membership in a labor union.” This law prohibits union security agreements, which are contracts between management and unions that determine to what extent employees may be compelled to join a union. Unionized workplaces in states that have passed these laws are required to extend the same compensation package and offer union representation to workers who refuse to join the union. Since those who do not join are not required to pay dues, this weakens the unions’ ability to organize and remain politically active.

The AFL-CIO states that “’Right to Work’ is the name for a policy designed to take away rights from working people. Backers of right to work laws claim that these laws protect workers against being forced to join a union. The reality is that federal law already makes it illegal to force someone to join a union. The real purpose of right to work laws is to tilt the balance toward big corporations and further rig the system at the expense of working families. These laws make it harder for working people to form unions and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions.”

We, here at the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local American Postal Workers Union are taking a public stance on “Right to Work.” We say no. No to hurting our unions, no to big corporations taking away our power, no to taking away our rights. President Fred Wolfmeyer states that “’Right to Work’ is a deceptive way of advertising something that is already guaranteed – everyone already has the right to work. We do not need a law that tells people that. In an era where the government is pledging to scale back regulations, ‘Right to Work’ is just another government overreach. It tells employers who they can and cannot negotiate with, and even what they can and cannot talk about. This weakens the St. Louis APWU because we will have to negotiate for and represent employees who do not pay union dues. They will get the same benefits as dues-paying members, without having to spend the money. Free grievances, free arbitration, free benefits. They will be freeloading on the backs of hardworking, union paying members. We simply believe that government should stay out of our negotiations and that anyone who receives the benefits of union representation, should pay for it.”

This is a call to action. Support your unions by urging your local Senators and Representatives to vote NO to “Right to Work” here in Missouri. Let us secure our union’s rights! Be against “Right to Work” legislation. Find your representatives’ and senators’ phone numbers, addresses, and emails by entering your zip code on the Missouri House and Senate websites. Join protests, sign petitions, and let Jefferson City know that **Right to Work is Wrong for Missouri.**

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