

# UNDERSTANDING

# RIGHT TO WORK

## BY THE NUMBERS

In March 2015, Wisconsin became the 25th state to adopt “right to work” legislation. Even though “right to work” doesn’t give anyone an actual right to work, these laws have gained a lot of ground in recent years and spurred debate nationwide.

Simply put, “right to work” laws stop employers and unions from establishing security clauses—which guarantee all workers who benefit from a union contract share the cost of representation. These laws are designed to stop unions from collecting dues from their members. Without dues, unions collapse—meaning your right to workplace protections eventually disappear altogether.

Regardless of their specific membership, unions help raise the standard of living for everyone. The 25 states that have passed “right to work” laws to destroy unions have created dangerous climates for workers, weakened job growth and downgraded the economy. All we have to do is look at the numbers.

Across Illinois,

**TEAMSTERS**  
JOINT COUNCIL 25

**OPPOSES**  
**RIGHT TO WORK**

JOHN T. COLI, PRESIDENT  
TEAMSTERSJC25.COM



### 7 OF THE TOP 8 STATES PAYING

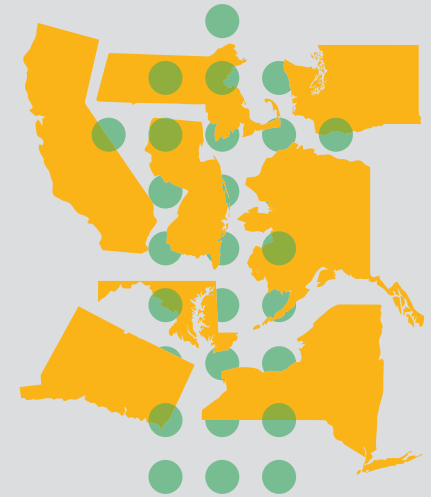
#### THE **LOWEST WAGES** TO WORKERS

are all states with “right to work” laws.

(Mississippi, Alabama, Idaho, Arkansas, South Dakota, South Carolina and Florida)



### ALL 8 STATES PAYING WORKERS THE **HIGHEST WAGES** DO NOT HAVE RIGHT TO WORK



(California, Massachusetts, Washington, New Jersey, Alaska, Maryland, Connecticut and New York)

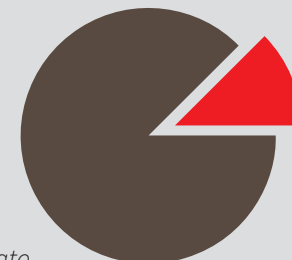
### HIGH POVERTY RATES



**KIDS IN POVERTY**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **poverty rates are higher** in “right to work” states.

The average poverty rate overall in “right to work” states is 14.8% and 20.2% for children in these states.



**OVERALL FAMILIES & ADULTS**

### OF THE 10 STATES WITH THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT, **7 HAVE RIGHT TO WORK LAWS.**



### POOR HEALTH CARE



**16.3 PERCENT**



of people below age 64 in “right to work” states are **uninsured** or lack necessary health benefits.

**DEATHS AND ACCIDENTS AT WORK ARE 54.4% HIGHER IN STATES WITH RIGHT TO WORK.**

### LOWER WAGES AHEAD

In 2015, economic reports from the University of Illinois concluded workers across the state would face lower hourly wages if “right to work” was adopted.



Wages for African-Americans would drop by 2-9% and wages for Hispanic workers would drop by 8%.