

Fed up with anti-worker politicians, bills? We're not going to take it anymore!

By **DAVID A. COOK**
President



COOK

We're just a few weeks into the Missouri legislative session and it is clear once again that politicians will spend some of their time targeting hard-working families rather than focusing on raising wages for all Missourians.

So-called "right-to-work (for less)" may not be up for debate in the Capitol thanks to the work done by Local 655 and our allies — that issue now resides with the people of Missouri — but sadly other Missourians remain under attack, as they have been for years.

There are bills in the Missouri legislature that seem crafted for the sole purpose of making life harder for working Missourians. Rep. Dan Shaul, a Jefferson County Republican, is offering a bill that would allow employers to adopt on-call scheduling and would forbid local communities from overturning those schedules through the law.

As if life isn't already challenging enough for retail workers, now Shaul wants employers to be able to simply call them up whenever they like and tell them to come to work. If you thought it was already burdensome to plan your life around your work schedule, get ready for it to be worse if Shaul's bill is allowed to pass.

The legislature is already moving forward with their paycheck deception bill, a law that would require public sector unions to re-sign their members every single year, placing an expensive and time-wasting burden on folks like Missouri's teachers. This legislation may not impact Local 655 members directly, but it is one more step in the march toward destroying the rights of people across this country to come together and fight for a better life.

In the private sector, some politicians are already moving to gut wages for our brothers and sisters in the building trades. Yes, representatives and senators are moving to gut prevailing wage laws. These laws create

a wage standard that ensures that anyone in Missouri hired on taxpayer money for public works jobs receives a good living wage, whether they are union or not.

Just like "right-to-work(for-less)", supporters of these changes wrap themselves in cynical, phony arguments. They say they simply want Missouri teachers to have more freedom. If freedom were truly at stake, why are teacher's unions being subject to paycheck deception while our brave first responders are not?

They say they simply want to stop the government from picking winners and losers and let contractors underbid one another for the best work at the best price. But if the goal were putting an end to winners and losers, these same men and women wouldn't support tax cuts that directly benefit the wealthy few or tax credits that go only to a handful of the most wealthy and powerful donors in the state.

And all the while we have a governor who is more concerned with saving his own skin from scandal and eyeing a run for the presidency than he is with helping out regular Missourians who just want to go to work, see their kids grow up and have a fair shot at the American dream.

We will work hard, as we always have, to stop these bad bills. We will make ourselves known in Jefferson City, and we will make sure the whole state knows what these lawmakers want for their constituents.

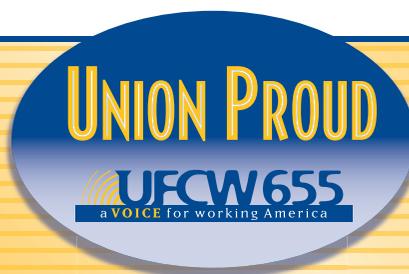
But the most significant thing we can do is still ahead.

When Missourians have a chance to reject the phony "right-to-work(for-less)" by a vote of the people, we have a chance to send a message that could very well echo in every corner of this state for years to come. That message is simple: Don't attack the livelihoods of working Missourians.

We must send a strong message that the people of Missouri are fed up with politicians who care more about a few rich donors, powerful CEOs and corporate lobbyists who might one day hire them than their own constituents.

We can send them a message that we are here. We are awake. And we won't be pushed around anymore.

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655 resolves Darmo members' back pay

About a dozen Local 655 members working at Darmo Manufacturing will soon be getting a hefty check in the mail as a result of diligent representation from their union.

Employees at the plant were entitled to a total 0.25 cent/hour pay raise spread across two dates in 2018. But because their employer disputed which employees were eligible for

this raise under the contract, the raises never came. Until now!

Local 655 staff raised the issue with Darmo management and promised to bring a grievance forward if the issue was not resolved quickly. Darmo quickly backed down and now these members will receive back pay for the raises they have earned.

NLRB rules in favor of Local 655 Dollar General case

The National Labor Relations Board has rejected charges by corporate lawyers at Dollar General to decertify the historic December election when the Auxvasse Dollar General store became the first in the company's history to vote to join a union.

Auxvasse Dollar General employees voted overwhelmingly to join UFCW Local 655 and engage in bargaining for a union contract in early December 2017. After the election the company filed charges falsely accusing Local 655 and an employee of actions which would undermine the free and fair election.

Fortunately, Local 655 had the truth on our side, and an NLRB representative in St. Louis formally dismissed all of Dollar General's claims after hearing evidence from both sides.

"We were confident this would be the outcome simply because the facts were on our side," said Local 655 President David Cook. "Now we're just urging Dollar General to allow this ruling to stand and come to the negotiating table in good faith to give their employees the opportunity to have a union contract that helps them achieve the better life they've earned."

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If you are unable to apply online, you may request an application by mail at UFCW Charity Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Program, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or by e-mail at cfscholarship@ufcw.org. If you need the scholarship rules or an application in another language, please contact us at 1-800-551-4010 and we will obtain assistance for you. UFCW employed officers, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. —Nelson Mandela

In 2018 the UFCW Charity Foundation will award several SCHOLARSHIPS, up to \$8,000 each, to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents under the age of 20.

For more information, and to find out if you are eligible, please visit:

www.ufcwcharityfoundation.org/scholarship

The scholarship application will be available online from February 12-May 13, 2018.



If you are unable to apply online, you may request an application by mail at UFCW Charity Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Program, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or by e-mail at cfscholarship@ufcw.org.

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