

## **A Win for Workers in NH & Other Updates**

So-called Right to Work (RTW) legislation was defeated in New Hampshire on Wednesday! Earlier this year, both the House and Senate passed the legislation, then the Governor quickly vetoed it. Yesterday's vote was an attempt to override that veto, but pro-worker lawmakers stood strong and delivered enough votes to sustain it. Congratulations to all who worked hard to make yesterday's win possible, and stay ready for this issue to resurface in 2012!

RTW laws prohibit unions and employers from negotiating contracts that ensure those who benefit pay their fair share of the costs to secure and maintain the contract. The ultimate outcome becomes less-safe workplaces, lower wages and other roll-backs for workers. RTW is part of the overall right-wing, CEO-backed push to consolidate more power in the hands of a few at the expense of the American middle class.

### **More on Right to Work Proposals. . .**

- **Indiana** – Rather than focusing on job-creation, a group of lawmakers is once again rewarding corporate supporters with a hard push for RTW. During the past year, Indiana Steelworkers undertook a major effort to prevent this from becoming law. To block a vote, 39 House Democrats even left the state in the largest walkout protest in recent U.S. history. Steelworker efforts are ramping up again.
- **Michigan** – RTW proposals have been introduced in both the State House and Senate. Michigan Steelworkers have a lobby day scheduled this upcoming Tuesday.
- **Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri and More** – We continue to watch a number of states where lawmakers have introduced RTW legislation or right-wing groups are attempting to get the issue on the ballot.

### **And, Did You Know . . .**

If Congress doesn't act soon, almost two million out-of-work Americans will lose their federal unemployment insurance in January. These benefits are often the difference between barely scraping by and falling into poverty. If we cut this lifeline, it won't just hurt those losing benefits. The housing crisis will deepen as more people lose homes. Fewer American families will be able to buy food or clothing for their kids, putting retail and other small businesses in jeopardy. We'll have more information on this situation next week.