

Right to Work

The Public Policy Committee of the National Association of Women Business Owners recommends that:

The governor place the right-to-work issue on her legislative call for 2016, that the legislature pass a right-to-work bill and that the governor sign the bill into law.

History of Right-to-Work statute in New Mexico

Generally, a right-to-work law prohibits requiring union membership and dues paying as a condition of employment. The New Mexico legislature passed right-to-work legislation in 1979 and 1981, but both times the bill was vetoed by then-governor Bruce King. In the 2015 legislative session, a right-to-work bill was passed by the House but did not pass the Senate. Such a proposal is likely to be introduced again in 2016.

Although we do not believe that passage of a right-to-work law in New Mexico will result in a vastly improved economic environment for our citizens, we do believe that it is one factor that can bring about incremental improvement.

Some Facts about Right-to-Work States

As of now, there are 26 states that have adopted right-to-work laws, including recently the historically heavily unionized state of Michigan. According to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 of the 25 states with the fastest employment growth are right-to-work states and 19 of the 25 states with the slowest growth are non-right-to-work states. During the last quarter of a century, right-to-work states have averaged job growth at about twice the rate of non-right-to-work states. A look at our region of the country, where only New Mexico and Colorado are not right-to-work state, bears out this data.