



**Public Policy Committee**

**“Right to Work” Subcommittee**

***Resolution***

It is the mission and passion of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce to serve its 5,000 plus members in the following way:

- Promote the community and strengthen our local economy
- Provide networking and marketing opportunities
- Fight for pro-business legislation
- Create better connections, both in-person and through social media services
- Provide important, programming and training for businesses and entrepreneurs
- Provide exclusive benefits and discounts

It is in the spirit of fighting for pro-business legislation that we, as a chamber, support and recommend passage of a “Right to Work” initiative in the PA State Legislature for the following compelling reasons:

- Whereas, we support the right and freedom of all Pennsylvania employees to choose whether or not to be a part of a union and not be compelled to pay dues.
- Whereas, we support the free market system in Pennsylvania for businesses to grow and thrive by allowing for a more level playing field between union and non-union companies.
- Whereas, “Right-to-Work” does NOT take away the right of unions to organize employees.
- Whereas, it forces a union to be more accountable to their members. And it preserves the ability of people who don’t want to join unions from being excluded from job opportunities in unionized workplaces.
- Whereas, as long as Pennsylvania remains a non-Right-to-Work state, it will continue to discourage new businesses from making their home in our great state, as well as, the Lehigh Valley and negatively impact jobs and our local economy.
- Whereas, empirical data suggests that aggregate employment in Right to Work states has increased modestly while employment in union security states has declined.

- Whereas, Pennsylvania Act 84, the so called “Fair Share” law doesn’t go far enough to ensure individual freedom against compulsory union dues.
- Whereas, The Chamber is pro-jobs.
- Whereas, 25 other states are already Right to Work states.
- Whereas, Economic stability increases in Right to Work states (private sector employee compensation grew 12 percent in Right to Work states but in non-Right to Work states the growth was only 3 percent.

**Therefore, be it resolved that The Chamber of the Greater Lehigh Valley supports the adoption of a Right to Work law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

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VOTES:

4/17/13---Subcommittee voted unanimously to pass out of subcommittee for distribution to subcommittee members for changes prior to sending to PP

5/15/13—Passed Public Policy Committee (vote: one nay (D.Dunn) and one abstention (G.Reibman) the remainder of the members voted YAY. Changes made: # of members from 6,000 to 5,000; #7 bullet removed)

6/10/13—Passed Executive Committee

6/24/13 -- Passed Board of Governors