



Indiana Manufacturers Association

Indiana's Leading Advocate for Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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Right-to-Work is Right for Indiana

Indianapolis – Indianapolis - Today, the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) announced their support of the legislative leadership's decision that enactment of Right-to-Work legislation will be advanced in the 2012 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

According to IMA President, Patrick J. Kiely, "Our employment picture is better than the June 2009 peak of 10.9 percent unemployment (we're now at 8.9 percent), but we are range bound, fluctuating between the unacceptable unemployment rate of 8 to 9 percent. It is much worse for youth and veterans. A recent analysis of the unemployment rate for returning veterans is more than 23 percent, and that will continue to rise as we withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan. Add potential significant defense spending reductions and the number could soar. Since 2008, times have changed dramatically; and our current problems require different solutions. The question for all of us is—should we do everything possible to help create and retain jobs? If the answer is yes, Indiana must take the next major leap to make sure we have every economic development tool in our toolbox."

Mr. Kiely further stated, "Studies and testimony by major economic development assessment firms indicate that non-Right-to-Work states are losing anywhere from 35 to as high as 80 percent of prospects. That is certainly a wide spread and would be impacted by other state policies; but at even the low side, it is too significant to ignore with our employment challenges. Right-to-Work is good for both employers and employees. More jobs mean more opportunities for everyone, even the unions, if they are truly interested in more prospects and creating jobs."

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Formed in 1901, the Indiana Manufacturers Association is the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and the only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. The Indiana Manufacturers Association, representing more than 1,400 companies, is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that creates, protects and promotes quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana. Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in America in wealth and jobs created, sustained, and supported. More than 50 percent of all employment in Indiana has some connection to manufacturing. The staff of the Indiana Manufacturers Association has more than 160 years of combined governmental affairs experience and is recognized as experts in many areas including tax, environment, labor relations, human resources and healthcare.