

## Script for the Right to Organize Power Point

After video intro:

Slide 1. \* Nationally, the AFL-CIO and Jobs with Justice are initiating a campaign to restore the right to organize, with Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> the national day of action!

\* We want you to know about events kicking off the Right to Organize campaign in Portland, on December 6<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. We also want you to know about a Member Mobilization workshop on the Right to Organize prepared by the AFL-CIO on -  
----- (You will receive flyers describing these events.)

\* This presentation will give you some background. We'll briefly look at A. Why workers want and need unions, B. How we have virtually lost the right to form unions and bargain collectively, and C. What we can do to restore our right to organize!

Slide 2. Recent polls indicate that over 42 million workers would join unions if they could.

Slide 3. Let's look at some key facts that show just how important collective bargaining is for workers. Unions are needed to preserve and improve wages.

Slide 4. Compare wages in an area where there is a high percentage of union workers to an area with a low percentage of union workers.

Slide 5. In the case of nursing homes we can also see how wages are significantly higher where union density is higher.

Slide 6. Collective bargaining is crucial in getting workers health insurance.

Slide 7. Note the critical union advantage in getting pensions.

Slide 8. \* This slide and the next three show that unions bring increased living standards to the entire community!

\*In this slide we see how unions are the most effective anti-poverty program our country can pursue. Note that unionized workers in low wage occupations are above the poverty line, but non-union workers in these occupations are below the poverty line.

Slide 9. This slide shows how the benefits of belonging to a union are even more profound for women and people of color – who are often victims of discrimination in the workplace – than they are for other workers.

Slide 10. In the ten strongest union states, public policies are far more likely to serve the interests of working people than in the ten weakest union states. Compare money going to education, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation in the strong union states (blue bars) to the money for these programs in the weak union states (red bars.)

Slide 11. \* Corporate political power is excessive. This slide shows a public tax policy that benefits the corporate elite who get big tax cuts while needed services are cut from the budget.

\* Increasing union density strengthens workers' political voice and will lead to public policy (including tax policy) that will benefit workers.

Slide 12. This slide shows how we **should** be able to organize! (Read this slide)

Slide 13. But, here we have the **reality!** (Read this slide.)

Slide 14. How is the system that is designed to protect workers' right to organize broken? (Read this slide.)

Slide 15. (Read this slide.)

Slide 16. (Read this slide. Give out flyers on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and briefly explain the day.)

Slide 17. (Read this slide. Briefly explain the celebration.)