



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This Index was co-authored by 2009 Alliance for Worker Freedom Labor Associate Todd Hollenbeck and AWF Executive Director Brian M. Johnson.

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In 2008, Hollenbeck authored a study for the non-partisan, non-profit public policy research organization Independence Institute, titled “TABOR: What Was Said vs. What Really Happened.”

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Johnson has served as Executive Director of the Alliance for Worker Freedom since 2007 and is a registered lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

A Message from AWF Executive Director Brian M Johnson

Since our first publication of the Index of Worker Freedom in 2007, the economic climate enjoyed by working Americans and business owners has drastically shifted. What was the end of an economic boom in 2007 is now a dim and bleak workforce climate. Since the inaugural Index publication, nation-wide unemployment has risen from 4.6 percent to a staggering 10 percent. Additionally, due to a shift in the political climate, priorities towards worker freedom have been altered. The current political agenda is one of increased regulation and restriction on businesses and workers, making economic mobility and upward growth increasingly more difficult.

However, only in times of struggle can we find our full potential and understand the forces that are often holding it back.

This 2009 Index highlights the progress some states have made since 2007, and notes the challenges many continue to face. Burdens to worker freedom come in many forms and hail from many sources – both at the federal and state level. In an effort to facilitate a greater understanding of worker freedom, we have expanded the variables from ten to fifteen, adding state occupational licenses and health insurance mandates to name a few.

It is our hope that this Index will serve as a tool to promote and increase healthy state competition and to highlight some of the more egregious burdens placed on workers in certain states over others.

Sincerely,