



Editor [Sandy Phaneuf](#). Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know. Sandra.Phaneuf@patch.com

[Government](#)

Rep. Jon D. Brien Co-authors Commentary on Pension Reform

Release: "Task Force: A Tale of Two Cities" advises state leaders to look at Michigan's successful pension policy reforms.
November 16, 2011

Recommend 0
[Email](#) [Print](#) [7 Comments](#)



Related Topics: [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) and [Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity](#)

The Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity published today a compelling commentary from a member of its special pension Task Force comprised of national experts on state pension and budget issues.

Rhode Island State Representative Jon Brien (Democrat - District 50, Woonsocket) joined with Jonathan Williams in co-authoring commentary that discusses how results from different pension reform decisions by Michigan and Illinois should make clear the path Rhode Island should take as the RI General Assembly considers the historic pension reform bill before it.

The analysis discusses how, via the American experiment, we have 50 laboratories of democracy in our states, where various policies have succeeded, while others have failed and where valuable lessons can be learned.

The piece recommends that Rhode Island residents should look not to the failed pension reform policies in Illinois, but rather to Michigan's successful pension policy reforms, for proof that pension reform is possible and can produce positive long term results.

The full commentary can be accessed from the Center for Freedom's website at www.rifreedom.org.

The Center's Task Force members, include Bob Williams (President of State Budget Solutions), Jonathan Williams (Director Tax & Fiscal Policy for ALEC), Jagadeesh Gokhale (senior fellow at the CATO institute), Rich Danker (Project Director at American Principles Project), and Eileen Norcross (senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center). Additional bio information for all Task Force members can be found on the Center's website at www.RIFreedom.org/pension-reform.

The Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity is the state's leading free-enterprise public policy think tank. Non-partisan, yet firm in its belief that freedom is indispensable to citizens' well-being and prosperity, the Center for Freedom's mission is to restore competitiveness to Rhode Island through

[Close](#)

Recommend

0

[Email](#)

[Print](#)

[Follow comments](#)

[Submit tip](#)

[Add photos & video](#)

[7 Comments](#)

[Thomas Graves](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

5:31pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2011

I don't think I would place any value in Rep. Brien's comments on this sensitive subject. (Was he paid for his comments?) Most likely. I say this for two reasons:

- 1. Mr. Brien is a DINO (democrat in name only); he should simply change his political label to Republican and become the minority leader.
- and
- 2. Mr. Brien has a bias against all unions in general, and teachers/municipal workers, except judges and state police, in particular. But I would bet a quarter his family is enrolled in the taxpayer-funded medical plan.

[Log in to reply](#)

[George Lacouture](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:53am on Thursday, November 17, 2011

Tom, you are 100% correct on Rep Brien. Glad I no longer live in his district.

[TaxpayerToo](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:44pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2011

I don't care if Mr. Brien is a DINO, a Rhino, or a Whino....as long as he helps to save Woonsocket from going in the direction it's heading.

Mr. Graves...I don't blame you for trying to desperately hold on to your teacher's pension, but is the name calling necessary? I thought you taught better than that.

[Log in to reply](#)

[Thomas Graves](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:58am on Thursday, November 17, 2011

DINO is not name calling; it describes someone who claims one thing and does another.

[David Bouchard](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

10:53pm on Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. Graves; you are so right on your first point about Rep Brien being a DINO; he takes advantage of those jokers who vote with the master-lever. He's not alone, though; and I believe that there is actually a large Republican contingent in the RI GA, but they call themselves Dems.

On your second point, I can't say for sure if he's in the taxpayer-funded medical plan, but I'm pretty sure he's taken advantage of the taxpayer-funded tree removal service. That's available to all of us, isn't it?

[Log in to reply](#)

[Ray](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:39am on Thursday, November 17, 2011

Jonny boy is a fraud. Lets see if he make any amendments that will affect the Mayor's Pension? Doubt it because he is an employee at will for the Mayor.

[Log in to reply](#)

[Chris12](#)

[Flag as inappropriate](#)

7:57am on Thursday, November 17, 2011

We know where Rep Hunt, Rep Brien, and Senator Cote stand on pension reform. Does anyone know what Rep Phillips and Senator Picard are doing????

[Log in to reply](#)

Get Patched In

Woonsocket news, events, and deals, delivered straight to you.

[Sign Up](#)

[Close](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Submit >](#)

Click Here >



TODAYS DEAL:
\$15 for \$30
 Worth of Flowers & Gifts
 from 1-800-Flowers

1-800-flowers.com
Patch DEALS

TODAYS DEAL:
\$15 for \$30 Worth of Flowers
 & Gifts from 1-800-Flowers

1-800-flowers.com **Patch** DEALS

Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.

[Learn more »](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.

[Learn more »](#)

Contribute

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

Patch Info

- [About Us](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

- [PatchU](#)
- [Patch.org](#)

Goodies

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Widgets](#)



Copyright © 2011 Patch. All Rights Reserved.

Get Patched In

Woonsocket news, events, and deals, delivered straight to you.

[Sign Up](#)

[Close](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)