

# Minnesota Business Leaders

*A coalition powered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce along with chambers, associations, and businesses to save the secret ballot.*



**Update:**  
**Week of December 21, 2009**

## HOLD THE DATE



**MBL Coalition Members are taking action TODAY to stop this misnamed and misguided legislation**

The coalition of business organizations is your go to source for EFCA

With 2009 quickly coming to an end, Members of Congress are undoubtedly looking ahead at the mid-term election. Conventional wisdom says that Congress generally stays away from holding votes on controversial issues as Election Day draws closer. However, after organized labor pumped over \$400 million into the 2008 election, they continue to pursue passage of their agenda. And Labor is unlikely to back away from this pursuit of their agenda, even if those Members of Congress they helped elect in 2008 were to ask them to back down from the most controversial aspects of their agenda.

Recent issues of *Minnesota Business Leaders* have highlighted Labor's growing interest in staying mobilized and in campaign mode to ensure consideration of their legislative agenda. Labor will be pressing the Members

information and updates. Thanks to all of our members for joining the fight to save the secret ballot!

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber  
 Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber  
 Apple Valley Chamber  
 Austin Area Chamber  
 Brainerd Lakes Chamber  
 Burnsville Chamber  
 Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead  
 Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks  
 Dakota County Regional Chamber  
 Duluth Area Chamber  
 Eden Prairie Chamber  
 Edina Chamber  
 Elk River Area Chamber  
 Fairmont Area Chamber  
 Faribault Area Chamber  
 Greater Wayzata Area Chamber  
 Grand Rapids Area Chamber  
 Hastings Area Chamber  
 Hutchinson Area Chamber  
 I-94 West Chamber  
 International Falls Area Chamber  
 Lakeville Area Chamber  
 Litchfield Chamber  
 Marshall Area Chamber  
 MetroNorth Chamber  
 Midway Chamber  
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber  
 Minnesota Chamber  
 MN Associated Builders & Contractors  
 MN Automobile Dealers Association  
 MN Beverage Association  
 MN Business Partnership  
 MN Grocers Association  
 MN Lodging Association  
 MN Restaurant Association  
 MN Trucking Association  
 MN Warehouse Association  
 North Hennepin Area Chamber  
 Northfield Area Chamber  
 Owatonna Area Chamber  
 Printing Industry of MN  
 Redwood Area Chamber  
 Richfield Chamber

of Congress they supported in 2008 to pass the very legislation that could cause difficulties in this new political climate. Roll Call describes how Card Check could be a [gut check](#) to members of Congress who were backed by Labor in 2008.

Articles in this edition of *Minnesota Business Leaders* focus on this new political climate and what that might mean for Card Check as the mid-term election draws closer.

Lastly, we want to thank all the supporters of *Minnesota Business Leaders* who stood together during 2009 to counter the proponents of EFCA. Please have a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season and we look forward to working with you in the New Year!

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## Compromise Does Not Always Yield Something Less Objectionable

In a commentary for *The American Spectator*, Kevin Mooney, a Washington, D.C.-based investigative reporter looks ahead to what might happen after health care. Long predicted by pundits inside and outside the Beltway is that Card Check will be pushed by Labor immediately following passage of a health care overhaul, if and when that happens. Mooney takes a look at the debate from what EFCA looked like at the outset to what it looks like today as proponents seek to gather the votes necessary to pass.

Along the way, he details the forces that have shaped the debate, from the large amounts of money spent by Labor to support candidates in 2008 to successful efforts by the business

River Heights Chamber  
 Rochester Area Chamber  
 Saint Paul Area Chamber  
 Saint Peter Area Chamber  
 SouthWest Metro Chamber  
 St. Cloud Area Chamber  
 Thief River Falls Chamber  
 TwinWest Chamber  
 U.S. Chamber  
 Waconia Chamber of Commerce  
 Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber  
 White Bear Area Chamber  
 Willmar Lakes Area Chamber  
 Winona Area Chamber  
 Worthington Area Chamber

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### Take Action Now!

**Talk of action on EFCA commands that we continue to educate and let our individual voice be heard!**  
**To contact your elected officials:**

1. Go to [www.mnbusinessleaders.com](http://www.mnbusinessleaders.com).
2. Click on "Take Action Now!"
3. Send a message urging them to reconsider their stance on EFCA.
4. Pass the link on to your friends and colleagues.

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### MBL Resource Website

**Visit the coalition's new website TODAY!**

[www.mnbusinessleaders.com](http://www.mnbusinessleaders.com) is your information source for all things card check. The site has all of the EFCA resources and information you and your members will need. Powered by the U.S. Chamber, you will find links to the Chamber's card check Toolkit, EFCA facts and figures, and all of the

community to galvanize public opposition to language that would remove the secret ballot from organizing elections. Mooney also reminds readers that just because compromise talk is in the air, Labor interests very well may push the original EFCA legislation for a full vote if they see an opportunity. The full article can be found [here](#).

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## Not Card Check, But a Check on Business

Although EFCA is Labor's main focus, Card Check's uncertain future has increased attention on proposed rule changes that are aimed at giving more power to workers and unions. U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis is seeking changes to rules and regulations that would shift power towards workers and unions according to a recent [article](#) from *The Wall Street Journal* as well as a [clip](#) from *Workforce Management*. One of the most important changes sought by Ms. Solis is one that would require employers to be more transparent in their conversations with consultants who provide advice and counsel on union organizing campaigns.

The reasoning the Department of Labor uses for greater transparency is its belief that "When workers or union members have more information about the arrangements have been made by their employer to persuade them whether or not to join a union, this information helps them make more informed choices and acts to level the labor-management relations playing field."

While participating in an online chat,

latest news on the legislation.

### America's Leading Newspapers Weigh In

The editorial boards of some of the nation's leading newspapers, such as the Wall Street Journal, the L.A. Times, and the Washington Post, took a look at the Card Check bill. They concluded decisively that the legislation effectively eliminates private ballots. See the link below and read for yourself.

»[Read the editorials](#)

### Have you Joined the Virtual March against Card Check Yet?



Click on the image above to do so!

### Minnesota Business Leaders: Your Go-To Resource

Click [here](#) for a list of the coalition's contacts.

Secretary Solis was asked whether EFCA would pass in 2010. She responded by saying, "The president and I are both on the record that we support the Employee Free Choice Act. It's now up to the Congress." The full chat can be found [here](#).

### Shielding Vulnerable Members from Controversy

In another sign of the impending mid-term election, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has "privately told her politically vulnerable Democratic members that they will not vote on controversial bills in 2010 unless the Senate acts first." High on the list of controversial bills is EFCA, which has previously passed the House in the face of the certain veto of President George W. Bush. This decision by Speaker Pelosi demonstrates the tenuous situation many freshman and other vulnerable members of the Democratic caucus are in as they face re-election fights. The full article can be found [here](#).

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