

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 November 23, 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 Thanksgiving tomorrow and the rest of the holiday season just around the corner, organized labor's goal of passing EFCA continues to wait in line behind health care reform. And with the 2010 election season not far off (and has already begun for some members of Congress), the difficulty of passing contentious pieces of legislation will probably increase. However, EFCA and other key pieces of the labor agenda remain front and center for those groups that invested over \$400 million during the 2008 election, and they are insistent that their agenda become law.

As a result, *Minnesota Business Leaders* will remain vigilant and informed on the debate around EFCA. In this week's edition of *Minnesota Business Leaders*, we will feature a few clips that help shed some sun light on the EFCA debate from the perspective of

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

organized labor, with one commentary from *Workday Minnesota*. A commentary in *The Weekly Standard* discusses attempts by the Association of Flight Attendants to monitor online elections by tracking which employees have and have not voted. Elsewhere, there are a couple clips detailing AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka's interview last week with the *Wall Street Journal* as well as a *WSJ* article detailing the contentious battle between two unions in California.

Wouldn't It be Nice?

In a [Workday Minnesota](#) commentary, Sarah Wolf, a member of AFSCME Local 3800 and employee at the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service, attempts to explain what EFCA would *really* mean to the union organizing process. To Wolf, EFCA would simply provide for the option that, "If you've decided that you want your workplace to be unionized, with the card check process, the NLRB would certify your union once the majority of employees decide that they want to unionize and then sign a card, making it much easier for workers who want to unionize to do so."

While not even mentioning the rights (and role) of the employer in the current election process, Wolf attempts to dissuade worries about the disappearance of the secret ballot. Wolf leaves out the fact that the card check process would leave workers open to intimidation. At the end of her statement above, Wolf says that EFCA would make "...it much easier for workers who want to unionize to do so." Perhaps a more apt description is that EFCA would make the organizing process "...easier for [those] workers who want to unionize to do so [by

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

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.
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.

MBL Resource Website

Visit the coalition's new website TODAY!

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

intimidating their colleagues]".

Trumka's "New" AFL-CIO

During an interview last Thursday with the *Wall Street Journal*, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka touched on a wide variety of issues from [EFCA](#) to the AFL-CIO operating in full time [campaign mode](#). In regards to EFCA, Trumka says that even though EFCA hasn't passed yet, he doesn't think that's a bad thing since, "We're going to get health care done". Trumka says organized labor will move immediately to pass EFCA once the health care debate is over. And to keep the push on for the other pieces of the union agenda, Trumka says that the AFL-CIO will operate in continuous campaign mode.

Monitoring Online Elections

Just how secret is your ballot? A commentary in this week's edition of *The Weekly Standard* highlights a recent attempt by the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) to monitor which employees have accessed a voting Web site. With former AFA President Linda Puchala now on the National Mediation Board (NMB), the AFA has asked again (after two previous attempts failed) for the right to insert a hyperlink in its emails and on its Web site that would lead to the official NMB voting site. According to *The Weekly Standard*, the problem with such a link is it would allow the union to monitor which employees have and have not accessed the voting site. In the previous attempts, the NMB previously rejected the AFA's request because it would compromise the NMB's neutrality and undermine the integrity and

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.

confidentiality of the voting process. The full commentary can be found [here](#).

Not Helping Their Cause

A commentary in *the Wall Street Journal* describes how the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has been [charged](#) recently with tampering in an election determining which union will represent home health care workers. With 10,000 workers casting ballots to decide whether the SEIU or National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) should represent them, the California Public Employment Relations Board has received complaints of intimidation.

And to think that all of this is going on while labor continues to insist that EFCA would not open the door to intimidation in the work place. As the debate in Congress continues over EFCA, the contentious election in California and the allegations around intimidation there don't shed positive light on the tactics and desperation of organizers.

You are receiving this email because you recently joined the Minnesota Business Leaders coalition or you are a chamber or business association in Minnesota that may have interest in becoming active on this issue.

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