

# 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 August 24**

**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 information and updates. Sign up today if you would like to join 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

## Senator Franken Addresses the North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce

On Thursday, August 27, Senator Al Franken addressed a luncheon meeting of the North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce. With a crowd of nearly 150 in attendance, Sen. Franken offered his perspective on issues such as health care reform, tort reform, economic stimulus, the Small Business Administration, and Cap and Trade.

When asked his position on proposed Card Check legislation, Sen. Franken made it very clear that he supports the legislation as originally authored and would like to see it passed. Franken said that, "I am a member of four unions and I believe in unions." In backing up his support for Card Check, Sen.

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  
 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

Franken described how he believes management abuses the election process without acknowledging any problems that may occur on the union organizing side.

Don't forget, contact Senator Franken's office today regarding his stance on EFCA by visiting [www.mnbusinessleaders.com](http://www.mnbusinessleaders.com).

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## Congressman John Kline addresses Waconia Chamber business leaders

On Thursday, August 27, Congressman John Kline spoke to Waconia Chamber members on a number of topics. He touched on the need to remember our armed forces and the battle that is still being waged. He then went to his main topic of healthcare and how he would like to start with a clean slate; Democrats and Republicans both sitting at the table to design a bi-partisan health care program. After completing his comments, he asked for questions from the audience.

The first question was regarding the Employee Free Choice Act and where that was headed. He asked for a show of hands to see how many people were familiar with this legislation. Congressman Kline outlined the nuts and bolts of the legislation and went into detail about why, if passed, it will be very bad for business and America, the country that values the secret ballot. He noted that many of his Democrat colleagues are struggling with supporting this legislation as they are supported by many unions, but their constituents are not in favor of it.

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## Card Check Debate Continues...

Winona Area Chamber  
Worthington Area Chamber

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### Take Action Now!

**Clearly we have reached a critical point in EFCA legislation. Please take action and let your opinion be heard! To contact Senator Franken's office:**

- 1. Go to [www.mnbusinessleaders.com](http://www.mnbusinessleaders.com).**
  - 2. Click on "Take Action Now!"**
  - 3. Send Senator Franken a message urging him to reconsider his stance of 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 latest news on the legislation.

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### 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.

Congress' debate over health care reform will likely continue to dominate national news well into the Fall, meaning Minnesota business leaders will need to continue staying vigilant regarding Card Check. Although Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid was recently quoted in a *Roll Call* [article](#) while at a Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce meeting that, "We [Senators] have too many other things on our plate," the potential remains for Card Check to be passed yet this Fall.

As demonstrated thus far by labor leaders, this legislation is so important to their agenda that they will likely continue a full court press to pass Card Check in its original form as soon as possible. Even though a recent [article](#) from Kiplinger.com noted the "prospects are dimming for a vote in the Senate" this year, labor groups know that the likelihood of passing Card Check legislation decreases the closer Congress gets to the 2010 elections. In order to pass Card Check before then, the Senate may try to pass a compromise version that removes some of the provisions of the original bill.

As noted in the two most recent editions of this e-newsletter, a compromise bill will still likely see attempts to add amendments to return this legislation to its original form and Minnesota labor leaders recently told their members that they should not accept a compromise version of the bill.

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### From the U.S. Chamber: Canadians Give Card Check Lessons

Click [here](#) to view a copy of an article published by the U.S. Chamber Magazine that describes Canada's experience with card check laws and their advice for the U.S.

» [Read the editorials](#)

Have you joined the Virtual March Against Card Check yet?



<http://secretballot.voteforbusiness.net/>

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

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

## Card Check in the News: Labor leader says 'card check' will wait until after healthcare

*The Hill* - Trumka says EFCA will be put off, but not indefinitely, "The President/and Emanuel have both said they don't intend to bring Employee Free Choice Act up until Health Insurance Reform is done," Trumka wrote on the [firedoglake] blog. "Which gives us an additional reason to do Health Insurance Reform now!"

...Trumka also sent a message to allies in the White House and Congress that they expected eventual movement on EFCA, and that it could not be put off indefinitely.

'We WILL PASS EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT legislation, we will not allow our 'friends' to pass on this essential part of an economic recovery solution!' he said.

The labor leader also encouraged activists to 'move the process along' in Massachusetts to ensure a quick successor for Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) in case of an absence, to fill his seat with a reliable 60th vote for cloture on the 'card check' bill."

[Read the entire article here.](#)

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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