

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 March 9

There's Still Time to Join MBL!

Leaders from 46 Minnesota chambers of commerce and trade associations have signed on as coalition members. There's still time to be a part of MBL - contact us today!

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber
Apple Valley Chamber
Brainerd Lakes Chamber
Burnsville Chamber
Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead
Chamber Grand Forks/East Grand Forks
Dakota County Regional

Legislative Update

Introduction of the misnamed "Employee Free Choice Act" has arrived. In the House, Rep. George Miller (D-CA-07) introduced H.R. 1409 with 222 co-sponsors while Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) introduced the companion bill S. 560 with 39 co-sponsors in the Senate. Please use this link for a full list of House [co-sponsors](#) and Senate [co-sponsors](#). Use this link to view the text for the [House of Representative's](#) bill.

It is critical that all Members of Congress - for or against - hear from voters today. Members of Congress from MN that chose to co-sponsor the bill include: Senator Amy Klobuchar, Congressman Tim Walz (MN-1), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4), Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-5), Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-7) and Congressman James Oberstar (MN-8).

Moreover, please be sure to thank the members of the MN Delegation who did NOT co-sponsor EFCA. They

Chamber
 Duluth Area Chamber
 Eden Prairie Chamber
 Edina Chamber
 Elk River Area Chamber
 Faribault Area Chamber
 Greater Wayzata Area Chamber
 Hastings Area Chamber
 I-94 West Chamber
 International Falls Area Chamber
 Lakeville Area Chamber
 Litchfield Chamber
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber
 Minnesota Chamber
 MN Automobile Dealers
 Association
 MN Beverage Association
 MN Grocers Association
 MN Trucking Association
 MN Associated Builders &
 Contractors
 MN Business Partnership
 MN Lodging Association
 MN Restaurant Association
 North Hennepin Area Chamber
 Northfield Area Chamber
 Owatonna Area Chamber
 Printing Industry of MN
 Richfield Chamber
 River Heights Chamber
 Rochester Area Chamber
 Saint Paul Area Chamber
 Saint Peter Area Chamber
 SouthWest Metro Chamber
 St. Cloud Area 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

We Need Your Communications Pieces

Things are heating up on the Card

include: Congressman John Kline (MN-2), Congressman Erik Paulsen (MN-3) and Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (MN-6).

Consideration by the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee is uncertain. Some Senate Democrats are expected to insist that the bill go through the Senate committee unlike last Congress (2007) when the Senate moved directly to the bill without the Committee's input. Also, Majority Leader Reid is expected to wait for the MN Senate seat to be filled before proceeding with floor consideration. We fully expect a filibuster against the bill when it makes it to the Senate floor for debate – requiring the 60 vote cloture vote to move to passage of the bill. Another scenario would be for the bill's proponents to attempt to attach EFCA to another piece of legislation. Be assured that we will be monitoring the situation closely and will keep you informed.

MN Business Leaders coalition members have been communicating with the MN Congressional Delegation our shared opposition to the bill. However, **we need you to send a clear message on to your members to take action to stop this legislation now.** President Obama supports this legislation and has said that he will sign EFCA if it makes it to his desk – with your help we can stop it. The good news is that it appears that the bill's proponents are short of 60-votes in the Senate and are scrambling for momentum.

Our efforts on EFCA are working, but the battle is far from over. Members of Congress need to know that you and your members are vehemently opposed to "card check" and appreciate any effort against this bill. You can use the VoteForBusiness.com online communication system or go to the www.house.gov to search for your legislator and call them or fax them a letter of opposition. Also, now is a good time to send letters to the editor or an op-ed expressing your thoughts on those who co-sponsored this mis-guided legislation. We also have our online EFCA [Tool Kit](#) that

Check issue across the state of Minnesota. More and more chambers and trade associations are looking for examples of good communications pieces for their members to use. Please forward anything you've used as part of your member communications to larry@dowellstute.com. We will share this information with other organizations that need help.

Let's Take Your Concerns to DC...

Have you marked your calendar for May 11-13 yet? MCCE's Washington DC fly-in, held in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber's Small Business Summit, will be a remarkably important event in the EFCA battle. The cost for this event is \$450 per person. Be sure to register through MCCE, as you'll save up to nearly \$300 per person by doing so. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

Minnesota Business Leaders: Your Go-To Resource

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

has sample letters to Congress, Newsletter articles, and other information to assist you with your outreach.

U.S. Chamber Resources

Check out the coalition's letter to Congress [here](#). If you have not signed on yet, please do so now by clicking on "Add you name to this letter." Click here, <http://www.voteforbusiness.com/issue.jsf?issueId=2383>, for the latest news and updates on Card Check.

Need an EFCA Websticker? We've also had a number of requests for website links on Card Check. We think this link is best as it goes directly to an EFCA Action Alert center for your members to check out within the Vote For Business website. To program the sticker on your homepage simply have your Webmaster copy and paste the associated code of the image to the HTML portion of your homepage:

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<a href="http://capwiz.com/chamber/issues/alert/?alertid=12675391" target="_blank"></a>
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New Study Shows Card Check Legislation Would Eliminate 600,000 Jobs in 2010

Economist Urges Congress Not to Enact Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—According to a new study released today by noted economist Dr. Anne Layne-Farrar, the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA)—also known as card check legislation—would negatively impact the landscape of the U.S. economy, increasing unemployment and

stifling job growth for all Americans.

"Unions claim they are the ticket to the middle class, but this study confirms that passing EFCA would have a damaging effect on an already weakened economy," said Randel Johnson, vice president of Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "This legislation is a bad idea any time, but is particularly irresponsible at a time when policy makers should be focusing on creating, not destroying, jobs."

According to the study, *An Empirical Assessment of the Employee Free Choice Act: The Economic Implications*, an increase in 1.5 million union members in one year would lead to the loss of 600,000 jobs by the following year. Jobs losses directly attributed to the passage of card check legislation would be equal to the entire population of Boston or seventy-five percent of San Francisco. Dr. Layne-Farrar also found that although workers organized under card check will typically receive higher pay than their unrepresented counterparts, the review of the economic literature reveals that these increased costs must be offset by decreases in other areas which go beyond wages and benefits.

An Empirical Assessment of the Employee Free Choice Act: The Economic Implications, was funded by the Alliance to Save Main Street Jobs, which is a coalition of numerous business groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The author, Dr. Anne Layne-Farrar, is an economist from the non-partisan firm LECG consulting. This study complements a recent report authored by renowned legal scholar Richard A. Epstein titled the [Case Against the Employee Free Choice Act](#).

To view the full report visit:
<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1353305>.

Outreach Updates

Thanks to the Rochester Area Chamber for hosting a Card Check seminar on Wednesday of this week. Approximately 60 people from around the region

attended the event.

Throughout the month of March, the Austin Area, North Hennepin and Richfield Chambers of Commerce will all be discussing Card Check during their monthly meetings in order to learn more about the pending legislation. Thanks for making time to talk about the issue with your members.

Upcoming seminars and their hosts:

Monday, March 16: Brainerd Lakes and Minnesota Chambers, Lakes Area Human Resource Association

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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