

# 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 October 5*

**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. 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

## Debate continues as the legislation possibly changes shape

As the debate over EFCA continues to percolate on Capitol Hill and around the U.S., workers' rights continue to be under assault. As you will see through the clips in this week's edition of Minnesota Business Leaders, the debate over EFCA will likely change as the final content of the bill is debated. Any compromise bill, while different from EFCA in its original form, may be just as detrimental in its own right to Minnesota businesses.

Even with a number of large issues in front of Congress in the coming months, this is the time to keep informed about the debate around EFCA. Because when the time comes to take action, we as business leaders will need to be prepared. Remember to forward this email to your

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  
 Winona Area Chamber  
 Worthington Area Chamber

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colleagues and members so that they too can stay informed and be prepared to protect workers' rights.

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## The EFCA marathon continues, albeit on an ever-changing route

Glenn Spencer from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's [Workforce Freedom Initiative](#) put together a great summary of where EFCA started in 2009 to where it stands at the present time. From the \$450 million labor leaders spent on the 2008 elections, to the recent seating of Sen. Paul Kirk (D-Mass.) to fill the seat of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, the shape of EFCA and its odds of passing has changed throughout the year. Even though EFCA had fewer co-sponsors in Congress at the start of 2009 than in 2007, majority leadership and labor leaders continue to push for passage of EFCA. While it is still unclear as to whether Senate Democrats can put together the 60 votes needed to beat back a filibuster (even with 60 votes in their conference), what is clear is that political posturing will continue as a group of six Senators seek to strike a compromise. Spencer's commentary, published on October 4 in The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, can be found [here](#).

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## Pressure on the secret ballot continues

In the article, "[Key Dems confident card-check will pass](#)," Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) states that he, "...think[s] this is going to happen at some point. There is a decent chance it will happen this year." While the prediction that EFCA may pass yet this year may be a long-shot, it also demonstrates the pressure that leaders in the majority and in the labor movement are putting

## 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 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.

» [Read the editorials](#)

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

on the process. Simply put, organized labor continues to want this cornerstone of its political agenda to pass. Sen. Brown is not happy that through compromise discussions, the card-check provision would likely be removed, but says that, "I know much of business is going to hate any bill."

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## How fast track elections came into the picture

Another commentary appearing in The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel is written by a partner in the Labor and Employment Law Department of New York-based Proskauer Rose LLP explains how we have arrived at the option of fast track elections replacing the card check provision in EFCA. Another onerous provision that may be included in a compromise version of EFCA is binding interest arbitration. Binding interest arbitration would put the fate of contract talks in the hands of a government-appointed arbitrator. This commentary can be found [here](#).



Click on the image above to do so!

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

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

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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