

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 September 20, 2010



2010 U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Regional Government Affairs
Conference

Dallas, Texas - October 6-8

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

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

Time is winding down on Congress as it prepares for the mid-term elections. With limited time, it will no doubt be interesting to see what becomes priority enough to get a vote, and what ends up popular enough to pass. This will be the last issue of Minnesota Business Leaders before the November 2 election and much of this edition will be spent wondering what will happen in DC in the coming weeks before congressional members go home.

Extend Tax Relief to Revive the Economy



By Tom Donohue, President and CEO,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
September 21, 2010

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

The remainder of the 111th Congress will be largely defined by one issue: taxes. With the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts set to expire at the end of the year, Americans are facing the largest tax hike in history. If Congress acts to prevent these tax increases, the economy will receive a much-needed injection of certainty. But if Congress lets tax relief lapse, 2011 will be another difficult year for American families and businesses.

Let's examine the implications of this pending tax hike. Marginal income tax rates will increase for every taxpayer. The capital gains tax rate will climb 33%. Dividend rates for stockholders will jump by as much as 164%. The child tax credit will be cut in half, and the marriage penalty will return.

Small businesses—our job creators—will be among those hardest hit by these tax increases. The top marginal income tax rate will grow to 39.6% from 35%. Compound that with the loss of certain itemized deductions and personal exemptions, and small businesses will face rates as high as 41.6%. Successful small businesses will be hit particularly hard—approximately half of the business income reported on tax returns in 2011 will be subject to the top two marginal rates.

For companies that employ Americans and keep our economy moving, raising dividend rates could discourage investment. Further, it could incentivize companies to use excessive debt financing, causing greater economic

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

instability. All taxpayers who receive dividends, regardless of income level, could be hurt by potential lower dividend payouts.

Our economy is stumbling on the road to recovery. Nearly 1 in 10 Americans can't find work. If you include those who have given up looking or have settled for part-time work, that number jumps to nearly 1 in 5.

Things are bad, but if taxes go up they could get much worse.

Congress must act now to prevent this tax increase. By preserving current rates, lawmakers would boost investor, business, and consumer confidence by removing growth-killing uncertainty from tax policy. With more of their earnings available—and a better sense of what the future will bring—businesses and individuals will be able to make the purchases and investments that drive economic growth and create jobs.

If Congress does only one more thing before it adjourns this year, it must extend the tax relief passed in 2001 and 2003. By giving the business community tax certainty, Washington would be casting a vote of confidence for the economic prospects of the nation.

Paycheck Fairness Act or the

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.

Employer Lawsuit Act?

The Paycheck Fairness Act (S.3772) may be voted on before Senate adjournment. NAM's Capital Briefing reports Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has re-introduced the legislation that, while it has a "feel-good" name, would increase the power of trial lawyers to sue companies over legitimate pay practices. In his blog post, "[Paycheck Fairness Act Will Be Anything But,](#)" Daniel Fisher commented, "...companies will have far less flexibility in addressing salary histories for new hires, different salary demands from existing employees, the size of pay raises for people promoted into new roles, and so on." For example, if a male and female apply for the same job and the male is offered more money because of his past compensation or work experience, the female could potentially sue the employer. It is worth noting the law goes both ways- if a female is offered more due to her background, the male could sue. Are either of these scenarios the fairest way to judge salary?

Currently, the Equal Pay Act prevents discrimination of pay based on gender. There are five key differences the Paycheck Fairness Act would bring that Bill Pokorny of Franczek Radelet [highlights](#).

In 2008, the Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 1338) passed 247-178. Minnesotans supporting it were Democrats Keith Ellison, Betty McCollum, Jim Oberstar, Collin Peterson and Tim Walz. Republican Jim Ramstad also supported it, while fellow Republicans Michele Bachmann and John Kline opposed it.

DISCLOSE Act Fails in Senate

A vote to advance the DISCLOSE Act failed in the Senate 59-39, with two Republicans abstaining (Hutchison-TX and Murkowski-AK). Believing the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court earlier this year should be overturned, supporters of the act argued the names of corporations and unions donating to a political advertisement should be disclosed. The Act also would prohibit companies with at least 20% foreign ownership to contribute to political advertising.

With Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CN) supporting the legislation, supporters only needed to flip the vote of one of Maine's senators. Both of Maine's Republican senators, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, have a history of supporting limitations to campaign finance. However, both voted against the legislation, with Snowe telling the [Maine Public Broadcasting Network](#), "There are many concerns I have with this legislation."

Those opposed to the DISCLOSE Act believe it violates the free speech of organizations who may wish to keep their political viewpoints private. U.S. Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President for Government Affairs Bruce Josten issued a statement about the DISCLOSE Act, commenting in part on President Obama's remarks, "In his address, the President states his administration has 'fought back against the entrenched special interests – weakening their hold on the levers of power in Washington.' Yet the DISCLOSE Act that passed in the House and that the President called for the Senate to act on

gives special deals and preferential treatment for organized labor. In fact, the DISCLOSE Act would strengthen organized labor's entrenched power in the nation's capitol. Unions, which backed President Obama's election, were the biggest spenders in the 2008 elections with nearly \$450 million."

To view Josten's entire statement, [click here](#).

Mandatory Child Care Unions: Coming to a Crib Near You?

Some states have been considering a mandate on unionizing child care providers who care for children that receive funding for subsidized care. National Right to Work claims 16 states have mandatory union membership for personal care workers. According to Yahoo! News, in Michigan the union is a partnership between the [United Auto Workers and AFCSME](#). The National Child Care Association (NCCA) has gone on the record being in opposition of mandated unionization, stating "The National Child Care Association supports the right of workers to voluntarily choose to join unions under fair and democratic rules, but opposes any situation that forces employees into a union without their knowledge and/or agreement."

According to the NCCA, unions are most interested in child care providers who receive funding through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), where a state can collect union dues from the child care subsidy check.

Depending on the outcome of the election, Minnesota could be targeted as a state for this type of law. Do you have members who provide child care? Ask them if they stay updated with the [National Child Care Association](#).

The Daily Show Pokes Fun at Union Hiring Non-Union

We would like to end this edition with a little humor. This week, *The Daily Show* talked to the United Food and Commercial Workers of Nevada and the non-union people they hired to protest Wal-Mart's labor practices. [Click here](#) to watch.

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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