

Help defeat card check legislation NOW



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At the turn of the century, a number of pundits predicted that a key issue facing Americans and people all over the world was privacy. So influential was the growth and expansion of the Internet becoming in everyday life, they wrote, that alarms were sounding about the threat of identity theft and protecting the right to privacy.

Today in Washington, DC, privacy is under attack. Big union bosses, fresh from lavishing more than \$250 million on candidates in the last election, are bent on collecting I.O.U.s by demanding Congress pass and President Obama sign the so-called Employee Free Choice Act — often called Card Check. This legislation attacks privacy by denying workers the right to a secret ballot in elections to determine whether or not workers wish to unionize their workplace.

Battle lines have been drawn between powerful unions with millions to spend and employers whose numbers are diminishing and whose resources are scarce. But we know this is a battle we must win to protect our workers and their rights.

It's interesting to note that proponents of "card check" have not cited any specific problems with current laws that have been on the books for more than 70 years. Those laws require that, for the most part, unionization elections be conducted through a secret ballot. Under "Card Check," the unions want to return to the days when "friendly persuasion" was used to recruit members to their nascent organizations.

Even more onerous are provisions in the bill that mandate binding arbitration if a contract is not agreed to within 120 days of a new bargaining unit being formed. Can you imagine the equity of a contract decided by a federal bureaucrat?

Polling reveals that only about 16 percent of the nation supports Card Check, while a whopping 72 percent oppose it. And that percentage is even greater in union households. These polls measured more than 80 percent in union-household opposition to Card Check in some areas of the Midwest.

So what's this move by big labor unions really about? Plain and simply, it's money. Workers have it . . . union bosses want it.

It's no secret that union membership has been on a downward trend for decades. Even here in Illinois, union membership now stands at less than 15 percent. And when there are fewer union members, there's less in union dues collected.

Frankly, the EFCA is Big Labor's unabashed effort to increase its revenues by authorizing the same strong-arm organizing tactics they last used in the 1920s. The bosses are convinced that by saying that their bill only streamlines the unionization process, the pliable Congress they paid for in 2008 will acquiesce.

These are dangerous times for business owners and workers alike and sitting on the sidelines waiting for somebody else to do something is an unacceptable response. Every manufacturer and their employees need to act today to make sure our Congressional delegation knows how repugnant the EFCA is to American workers. Unless we do that, the only voices our elected officials will hear are those of hired surrogates brought in to sing the union verse and chorus.

It's a siren's song that assures us of bliss but really only lures us into dangerous waters.

Let's protect our rights and the rights of our workers. Get involved before it's too late. It all begins with a simple phone call to your member of Congress. You'd be surprised how loud our collective voice becomes when you take the time to let your opinion be known.

