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Democrats Introduce Card Check: 600,000 Jobs Nationwide Now at Risk

Rep. Miller (D-Calif.) & Sen. Harkin (D-Iowa) introduce anti-worker legislation

Washington, D.C. — Today, union-backed members Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Mass.) have introduced the so-called Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). This legislation will take away a worker's right to a private ballot election when voting on union representation.

According to AWF executive director Brian Johnson, **“state right to work laws will have little saving grace for state economies if the right to a federally-supervised union election is replaced with an ad-hoc ‘card check’ scheme.”**

The EFCA will eliminate a worker's right to a federally-supervised private ballot election. Instead, secret ballots will be replaced by a kind of open-air petition known as a “card check.” Under this system, workers would lose their right to privacy. Employers, union organizers, and co-workers would all know whether individual workers each vote for or against unionization.

Additionally, a recent study from The Alliance to Save Main Street Jobs estimates that the effects of the EFCA and card check will cost 600,000 American jobs in 2010 alone.

If EFCA passes, Johnson describes how this scenario will play out: **“If EFCA becomes law and more and more companies in a given state become unionized through card check intimidation, the cost of operation will inevitably rise. This leads to increased prices for consumers, and as these effects spread, states will experience even more serious economic down-turns. In situations like this, new businesses will be discouraged from opening operations even in right to work states.”**

Johnson contends that state “right to work laws” protect the individual from being forced to pay union dues as a condition of employment. However, he maintains that if local industries succumb to unionization as a result of EFCA, the entire state and all the employees in that state suffer.

To combat EFCA, the Alliance for Worker Freedom is working with hundreds of legislators in dozens of states to introduce and pass anti-EFCA resolutions that instruct their federal delegation to oppose cloture and passage of EFCA. Their hope is that these efforts will send a message to their federal representatives to oppose this bill. Visit www.workerfreedom.org for more information.

Alliance for Worker Freedom (AWF) special project of Americans for Tax Reform dedicated to the protection of workers rights.
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