

Arkansas workers deserve secret ballots

The situation

In 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the so-called “Employee Free Choice Act” (EFCA), and the U.S. Senate considered identical legislation that would change the National Labor Relations Act by:

- Eliminating the rights of employees to an NLRB supervised secret ballot election about whether a union will represent them or not.
- Substituting a “card-check” process whereby unions can get cards signed at work, at an employee’s home or online
- Certifying a union if over 50% of workers sign card-checks, without a secret ballot election
- Denying employers’ rights to refuse unfavorable proposals during collective bargaining negotiations

This deceptively named proposal would:

- **Overturn 70 years of precedent** by taking away workers’ freedom of a government-supervised vote
- **Eliminate workers’ secret ballots** and replace them with card-checks
- **Trample workers’ privacy** by forcing them to publicly declare their support for or opposition to a union, and publicly sign a binding contract without knowing the consequences
- **Expose workers to intimidation**, deception and coercion

In fact, the National Labor Relations Board records and testimony before Congress are full of examples where the card-check process has been challenged on the basis of union misrepresentation, forgery, fraud, peer pressure, threats of termination and deportation, and loss of 401 (k), health and other promised benefits.

Only a few people are **against** workers having secret ballots

Union bosses! Their power grab is an undemocratic attempt to rebuild their drastically declining membership – from almost 20 percent twenty-five years ago to just 7.5 percent today. As one union president candidly admitted to *The New York Times*, “There’s no reason to subject the workers to an election.”

Nearly everyone else is **for** secret ballots for workers

- Eighty-seven percent of the American Public support federally supervised, private ballot elections to decide whether to form a union. (McLaughlin & Associates poll)
- The U.S. Supreme Court called the card-check system “inferior to the election process.”
- Small business owners and corporate executives who know that EFCA would force them to deal with unions formed by coercive tactics, impose contracts arbitrated by an arbitrator who knows nothing about your business, and expose companies to increased damages.
- Union Officials — because secret ballots “provide the surest means for avoiding decisions which are the result of group pressures and not individual decisions.” Oddly this opinion applies only when there is an attempt to remove a union.
- Political progressives who have supported national labor organizations throughout their careers are saying NO to EFCA. In a recent *Wall Street Journal* editorial about EFCA, former Senator George McGovern wrote, “I must raise my voice against pending legislation I see as a disturbing and undemocratic overreach not in the interest of either management or labor.”

Help defeat this undemocratic proposal by ...

- **Urging your members of Congress to vote NO on EFCA**
- **Signing a card allowing us to use your name in materials as someone opposed to EFCA**
- **Telling your family, friends and neighbors why the so-called Employee Free Choice Act is dangerous – then urge them to join the efforts to defeat EFCA**