



BAC Legislative Alert



International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

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Urge Your Members of Congress to Vote for the Employee Free Choice Act

On February 5, 2009, thousands of union members presented Congressional leaders from the House and Senate with over one million signatures supporting the Employee Free Choice Act.

Thank you for your participation in this remarkable event by signing the online petition recently in support of this critical legislation, which amends certain provisions of the National Relations Labor Act. And an added thanks to those of you who took the time to add your words of support for the bill as well as what your BAC membership has meant to you and your families. Your comments were so compelling that we posted many of them on our website's new [Employee Free Choice section](#) and plan to feature a sampling in an upcoming *Journal* article. To see what your fellow BAC members had to say, visit our website [here](#).

With the passage of the economic stimulus package, we're finally moving in the right direction to rebuild our economy. Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act will fuel that recovery by helping reconnect the link between a strong labor movement, a strong economy, and a strong middle class.

Part of our continuing effort to inform and educate members about this legislation is aimed at dispelling the misinformation about the bill that is being spread by the powerful business interests that oppose it, such as the following:

Myth: Majority sign-up is untested and will increase intimidation and harassment of workers by labor unions.

FACT: Despite false claims in business-sponsored ads, majority sign-up – when a majority of employees at a company sign cards declaring that they want to be represented by a union – is not a new concept. Rather, it was established in 1935 by the National Labor Relations Act, and has been well-tested since.

What the management-sponsored ads DON'T tell you is that the Employee Free Choice Act puts choice back in the hands of workers, where it belongs. Under current law, when a majority of workers indicate they want union representation by signing cards, management has the power to VETO the workers' choice. Under the Employee Free Choice Act, management will no longer have that power.

The business community is also nervous because of the tougher penalties the legislation would impose on employers for intimidating or coercing workers during an organizing campaign or in the period leading up to a first contract. While such unfair labor practices are illegal under the current law, the penalties for violating workers' rights have often proved inadequate. Historically, unfair labor practice charges have been brought against management in much greater numbers than against unions. The false claim by the business community that labor unions will suddenly begin intimidating workers is simply an attempt to divert attention away from what the bill will truly accomplish.

The Employee Free Choice Act petition was an important first step, but our work continues. Please make your voice heard again by telling your members of Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act. With the use of our new online tools – just click on the link below – contacting your legislators has never been faster or easier.

[Write Your Members of Congress](#)

Thanks in advance for your continued interest and participation. If you have family or friends that would like to get involved as well, please feel free to forward this email.