

EFCA / “Card Check” Talking Points



- The so-called Employee Free Choice Act, also called “card check,” would strip away the right of 140 million U.S. workers to a federally supervised private-ballot election when deciding whether or not to unionize.
- Under the current system, administered by the independent National Labor Relations Board, workers decide to unionize by a private-ballot election, a time-tested process that allows them to vote anonymously without fear of intimidation or reprisals.
- Under the “card check” system, union organizers would only have to gather signed authorization cards from a majority of the workers to claim union representation. Without the private ballot, workers who were intimidated or coerced into signing authorization cards would not have the ability to change their vote in private.
- Under the “card check” process, workers’ votes are made public to the employer, union organizers and co-workers.
- No one – employers and union organizers alike – should fear a private- ballot election. It is the only legitimate process to protect an individual’s freedom to choose without intimidation or coercion.
- All workers, in every industry, deserve the fundamental American right to a federally supervised private-ballot election. This right is guaranteed when they vote in political elections; there is no reason why they should surrender this right in the workplace.
- Former U.S. Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.), a champion of organized labor, called this bill what it really is – “a disturbing and undemocratic overreach not in the interest of either management or labor.”

“My Party Should Respect Secret Union Ballots,” The Wall Street Journal, August 8, 2008

- McGovern also said the bill “runs counter to ideals that were once at the core of the labor movement. Instead of providing a voice for the unheard, it risks silencing those who would speak.”

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For more information, go to www.abc.org/cardcheck