



Union Spin on Secret Ballots vs. The Truth

The Truth: EFCA Will End Secret Ballots in Union Organizing Elections.

Al Franken and his union boss allies are falsely claiming that the so-called Employee Free Choice Act does not end secret ballots in union organizing elections.

They are not telling the truth. But don't take our word for it.

Scores of newspapers across the country, from large to small, from coast to coast, from liberal to conservative, have editorialized about the so-called Employee Free Choice Act (known as H.R. 800 in Congress) and they all agreed on one thing: It will end the secret ballot in union organizing elections. Here is a sampling:

- The misnamed Employee Free Choice Act also would have **denied workers the right to a secret ballot** on the question of whether they want to be represented by a union at all. (*Denver Post*, 7/15/07)
- “The House of Representatives has scheduled a vote as early as today on a bill that **strips 140 million U.S. workers of the right to decide in private whether to unionize**. Naturally, it's called the Employee Free Choice Act.” (*Wall Street Journal*, 3/1/07)
- “The House has passed organized labor’s top legislative priority, a measure that would make it far easier for workers to organize: **They could get a majority of workers to sign cards rather than having to win a contested election.**” (*Washington Post*, 3/12/07)
- The way the law now reads, **if a group of employees want to form a union, they can do so by secret ballot—in a vote supervised by the government. H. R. 800 would do away with that minor detail.** (*Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, 3/4/07)



- [The Employee Free Choice Act] would have short-circuited the current system, in which the cards are used only to determine if enough interest in unionizing exists to warrant a fair, secret-ballot election, in which workers can express their opinions without fear of reprisals...**Doing away with secret-ballot elections goes against the grain of America's most fundamental democratic traditions.** (*Columbus Dispatch*, 6/30/07)
- The fight for the survival of labor unions has degenerated into yet another national squabble over the counting of ballots. But union organizers are not asking for paper trails or hand recounts. **They want to do away with union ballots altogether**, and even those in Congress who are sympathetic to labor's plight ought to think twice about condemning democracy. (*St. Petersburg Times*, 2/28/07)
- **But in passing the Employee Free Choice Act, the House has gone on strike against a basic tenet of democracy — the secret ballot...**The proposed law, in most cases, would dispense with elections and make the decision of whether to sign a union card the sole and very public determinant of organizing. (*San Antonio Express-News*, 3/17/07)
- **EFCA strikes down a fundamental right of workplace democracy, the secret ballot** in representation elections. Instead of protecting workers' right to vote their consciences without fear of union or management retaliation or intimidation, EFCA enables union officials seeking to organize a company for the first time to obtain signatures supporting a representation vote on cards from a majority of employees. (*San Francisco Examiner*, 3/11/07)
- Now pending in the House of Representatives is a bill - H.R. 800, curiously misnamed the Employee Free Choice Act - that **would eliminate secret-ballot elections** through which workers choose whether to form a union. Instead, unions would be established whenever a majority of workers signed their names to union cards. (*Missoulian*, Missoula, MT, 2/21/07)



- By **eliminating the option of a secret ballot in union-organizing** votes, the legislation wouldn't serve workers' best interests, either...If the bill became law, a union would no longer have to win a secret-ballot election to gain the right to represent workers should the employer refuse to certify that bargaining unit. Instead, elections would be replaced by the "card check" system. (*Rocky Mountain News*, 6/21/07)
- This bill, if it were ever to become law, would **revoke the right of workers for a secret-ballot election** to determine whether they will unionize. Instead, if a majority of the employees signed a card, presented to them by union organizers, then a union would be established. (*North Andover Eagle-Tribune*, MA, (3/7/07))

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