

RECESS IN REVIEW – America’s Workers Speak out for the Employee Free Choice Act

Over the Congressional recess America’s workers participated in a massive wave of grassroots activities in support of the Employee Free Choice Act – it was the **LARGEST GRASSROOTS ACTION** since the general election mobilization.

By the numbers:

- **Over 400** – number of grassroots events held in support of the Employee Free Choice Act including forums, community town halls, roundtables, letter delivery events, and marches.
- **Over 27,000** – letters to Congress in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.
- **Almost 100,000** – phone calls to Congress in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.
- **Over \$1 million** – spent airing two new ads in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.
- **Over 5,000** – miles logged by mobile billboards showing the faces of the Employee Free Choice Act.
- **Over 550** – number of television, print, radio, and online earned media hits covering the Employee Free Choice Act events.
- **Over 125** – op-eds and letters to the editor placed in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

I. Over 400 Grassroots Events in Support of the Employee Free Choice Act

All across the country America’s workers held over 400 events in support of the Employee Free Choice Act including forums, community town halls, roundtables, letter delivery events, and marches.

- Workers speak out for the Employee Free Choice Act at a town hall with Senator Lincoln



- Outside the town hall with Senator Lincoln



- Over 300 workers deliver over 12,000 letters to Senator Specter's Pittsburgh office



- Worksite leafleting in CO



- Small business owners in Nebraska speak out in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act



- Workers deliver thousands of post cards to Senators Warner & Webb



II. **Almost 100,000 Phone Calls and Over 27,000 Letter to Congress in Support of the Employee Free Choice Act**

America's workers didn't just talk over the Congressional recess – they took action – making almost 100,000 phone calls and writing over 27,000 letters to Congress in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

- A ‘Working Lunch’ in LA where workers hand write letters in support of the Employee Free Choice Act



- Workers in Wisconsin write letters to Congress



- Workers in Virginia make phone calls to Congress



III. Over \$1Million Spent Airing Two New Ads Supporting the Employee Free Choice Act

Over the recess American Rights at Work (ARAW) released two new ads supporting the Employee Free Choice Act entitled ‘Fabric of America’ and ‘Greed.’

- The ad ‘Fabric of America’ highlighted the benefits and security workers get from having the freedom to join a union - <http://tinyurl.com/cugqs5>

- The ad ‘Greed’ calls out corporations, many of whom have received billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded bailouts, for opposing the Employee Free Choice Act - <http://tinyurl.com/ch5t4z>

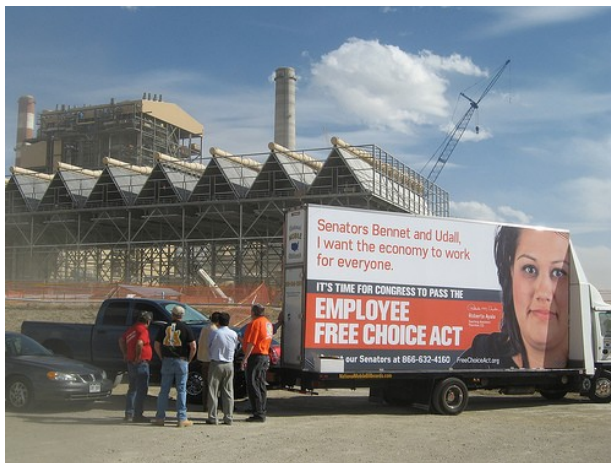
IV. Over 5,000 Miles Were Logged by Mobile Billboards Showing the Faces of the Employee Free Choice Act

Mobile billboards showing the faces of the Employee Free Choice Act logged over 5,000 miles across America.

- Mobile billboard in AR:



- Mobile billboard in CO:



- These mobile billboards highlighted what the Employee Free Choice Act is about – giving America’s workers a better life. Here are some of their stories:



“I wanted my coworkers to be treated fairly so we could be better advocates for our students.” Roberta Ayala, Teacher's Aide, Denver, CO



“Strong workers make a strong economy that benefits everyone. When employers put down their workers like they did to us when we tried to form a union, it hurts everyone.” Zeldia Manning, Former Poultry Plant Worker, Dermott, AR



“My company’s continued success is a message that companies can survive by treating workers well and allowing employees to unionize.” Asela Espiritu, Registered Nurse, Yorba Linda, CA



“I am among a fortunate, small number of American workers who have been able to organize a union without interference from management. Unfortunately, most don’t have the same opportunity we did.” Chinazo Okolo, Customer Service Representative, Baton Rouge, LA



“We decided to form a union to win a better life for our families. But the company won’t recognize our union – and they won’t give us a seat at the table to improve our jobs.” Charlie Wilson, Security Officer, Philadelphia, PA

V. Over 125 Op-Eds and Letters to the Editors Placed in Support of the Employee Free Choice Act

America’s workers had over 125 op-eds and letters to the editor placed over the recess in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

- Letter to the editor from PA worker Frank Bankard: “This is in response to a recent column about the Free Choice Act. As Congress debates the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), many Americans are being misled to think this act would in some way remove the “secret ballot” provision of the current National Labor Relations Act. The Chamber of Commerce and many other employer-funded associations are spending millions of dollars in campaigns of misinformation in hopes typical working Americans will not take time to research the truth of EFCA or, more importantly, the current practices of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

<http://www.thereporteronline.com/articles/2009/04/16/opinion/srv0000005095062.txt>

- Op-Ed from AR history professor Martin Halpern, “Employers today routinely fire workers trying to unionize, instruct supervisors to pressure workers to oppose union representation, conduct compulsory anti-union meetings, and threaten to close the business if workers unionize. Employer power to intimidate employees prevents private-sector workers from feeling free to vote for union representation in a National Labor Relations Board election. When workers overcome their fears and vote for representation, employers often refuse to engage in good-faith bargaining to reach a collective bargaining contract.

The goal of the Employee Free Choice Act is to restore the right of workers to form unions through government action to:

- Impose increased penalties on employers who illegally interfere with workers seeking to organize a union,
- Certify unions when a majority of workers sign representation cards, and
- Provide an arbitrated first collective-bargaining contract when a certified union and management fail to reach a timely agreement.

<http://arktimes.com/Articles/ArticleViewer.aspx?ArticleID=87837cb6-743b-4367-bff6-7a6ce99d609a>

- Letter to the editor from ME political economist John Buell, “Economic crises are as endemic to capitalism as is its resilience. Nonetheless, the system seldom survives in the terms predicted even by its most powerful players. The corporate CEOs that dominate contemporary capitalism know that the system cannot survive in its present incarnation. Most, however, demand that however much they rely on public dole, they should continue to dominate business and finance.

The Employee Free Choice Act is at the center of a battle to challenge such hubris. For more than a year, right-wing groups have lavishly funded anti-labor initiatives. These charge that granting employees the right to choose either card check or secret ballot elections would subject workers to possible workplace coercion. Yet their oft stated concern for workplace democracy won’t stand common sense scrutiny.

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/103685.html>