

## **Sample Letter to the Editor**

Your recent article on the Employee Free Choice Act is dishonest and misleading.

This legislation does not do away with secret ballot elections. It merely puts the decision of joining a union in the hands of workers—not their employers—where it belongs. Workers would decide if they want to join a union either by signing a card or by secret-ballot election. Majority wins.

All secret-ballot elections are not the same. Voting for elected officials in a booth at your local school is not the same as having an election at your work. You can turn off the TV during months of negative campaign ads during a political election. But you can't stop your employer from holding one-on-one meetings to intimidate you and threaten your job if you vote for the union. Unlike politicians, your employer directly controls your pay, schedule, workload, and whether your services are no longer needed. It's clear who holds the upper hand in a union election.

Sixty million workers say they would join a union if they could. Clearly something must be wrong with our current system if they want to join a union, but can't. Passing the Employee Free Choice Act would restore balance between workers and their employers by giving workers the free choice to join a union and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits.

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One of the biggest misconceptions about the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill that would make it easier for workers to join unions, is that the Act would take away workers' right to a secret ballot. This is false. The Employee Free Choice does exactly what it says it does: it give workers a choice. Currently, employers get to decide how workers vote—through secret ballot or by signing cards—but Employee Free Choice would put that decision in the hands of workers, where it belongs. Secret ballot would still be an option if workers choose to vote that way.

Opponents of Employee Free Choice are entitled to their opinions, but not to distort the facts to serve their purpose. Let's have a real discussion about Employee Free Choice, without lies or misinformation. American workers deserve that much.

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## **Sample Letter to the Editor**

After the recent meltdown on Wall Street, it's become obvious that too much money and power in the hands of too few has led our economy straight off a cliff. When the disparity between employees and employers is so great—last year, CEO salaries were 344 times that of the average U.S. worker, according to the New York Times—companies get greedier and greedier. Our middle class shrinks, while economic disparity widens.

The Employee Free Choice act would help fix our economy by expanding our middle class, and making sure that all Americans—not just those at the top--can earn good wages and benefits. It's time to make sure that the economy is fair for all working families, and Employee Free Choice will do just that.

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**Sample Letter to the Editor**

Your recent article about the scope of our economy missed the bigger picture. When our country's policies favor CEOs and corporations over hard-working families, it's no wonder we are in an economic crisis. Amid the blitz of corporate bailouts, everyday Americans have been asking, "Where's the people's bailout?"

The fact is consumer spending drives 70 percent of our economy. So the best way to get our economy back on track is to make sure the majority of working people have more money in their pockets to spend and stimulate the economy.

And the best way for workers to get ahead with better pay and benefits is to join a union. Union workers have 30 percent higher wages than workers who don't belong to a union, and are 59% more likely to have employer-provided health care.

The Employee Free Choice Act is legislation that would restore the balance between workers and their employers by giving workers a free choice to join a union through majority sign-up or secret ballot election. Having more union workers also boosts the pay for all workers, because non-union employers must keep up with unionized workplaces where workers bargain collectively.

Employee Free Choice is a real solution to revive our economy and make it work for everyone.

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**Sample Letter to the Editor**

Our country finds itself today in a serious economic turmoil. Working families are hurting. More Americans are unemployed. Our middle class is shrinking. For a sound economic recovery we have to expand the middle class. The Employee Free Choice Act represents the only bet for the country to achieve a wide and strong middle class because it would make it easier for workers to form unions.

Union members in America earn in average 30 percent higher wages than non-union employees. Studies have also demonstrated that high union density in a region or industry can raise wages for non-union employees. More Americans with better wages, better healthcare, and better pension will give a much needed boost to our consumer-based economy.

The detractors of the Employee Free Choice Act falsely claim that the legislation will eliminate secret ballot elections and worsen the economic crisis. That is pure fiction.

The current economic crisis we are experiencing makes it even more urgent for Congress to rise above partisan politics and bickering and pass the Employee Free Choice Act to encourage the growth of the middle class, and restore the American Dream.

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Working families in America are hurting. Today, more Americans are unemployed, without proper healthcare, and face mortgage foreclosures.

Now is not the time for partisan politics. Members of Congress must rise above ideology and special interests to address the issues of the very Americans who have entrusted them with their voice. America desperately needs real leadership. Congress should pass the Employee Free Choice Act to allow American workers to form unions easily and grow the middle class. Only when more Americans have jobs with paychecks that can provide for a family, with proper healthcare, will the economy be on its way to recovery.

More union members in America means more Americans with better wages, thus a higher standard of living. Studies show for instance that women in unions are significantly more likely to have employer-provided health insurance and an employer-provided pension. With about 40 percent of American families headed by women, there is no doubt that our country will be better off with more women union members.

Opponents of the employee Free Choice are spending considerable resources to fight the bill under the false pretense that unions are bad for business and that the bill will prevent American workers from having a secret ballot election. Their claims are simply inaccurate and misleading. The Employee Free Choice Act offers a fair alternate method to workers. History also teaches us that in tough economic times, encouraging union membership puts the economy on the path to strong economic growth.