



For Immediate Release

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OHIO CHAMBER OPPOSES EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS TODAY, CARD CHECK WOULD COST 600,000 JOBS IN 2010

Columbus, OH – The Ohio Chamber of Commerce today reiterated its opposition to the deceptively named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) or “Card Check” as it was introduced in Congress.

“If passed, Card Check would be devastating to our economy in these uncertain times,” Tony Fiore, Director of Labor and Human Resources Policy for the Ohio Chamber said. “Many employers are struggling to keep their doors open and Card Check would place more unnecessary costs on the backs of businesses forcing them to cut costs and possibly their workforce. In fact, one study clearly shows Card Check would cost 600,000 jobs in 2010 alone.”

Once again the EFCA is being introduced in Congress as organized labor attempts to boost its membership and pass what they have deemed their number one priority for the 111th Congress. The bill would force employees to participate in unionizing elections without the right to cast a private ballot. An employee’s vote would be known by everyone including co-workers, union representatives and the employer placing peer pressure on every employee.

Additionally, the EFCA calls for much more stringent contract negotiation guidelines should a union form in the workplace. Collective bargaining would begin almost immediately and if initial negotiations fail, employers and employees would be forced to accept terms established by a federally appointed arbitrator. Any contract written by a federally appointed arbitrator would be legally binding between the union and employer for two years. Such a long contract would be burdensome and expensive to the employer. Additionally, employees would not have an opportunity to ratify the contract implemented by the arbitrator. Under current law, if negotiations fail, no binding contract must be accepted.

“Under this proposal, employees are losing a right all Americans enjoy – the right to cast a private ballot,” Fiore added. “Employers are being forced into lengthy and expensive contracts forcing their costs to soar even if the company is not profitable. Card Check does nothing for employers and employees. Only unions win if the EFCA passes.”

Founded in 1893, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce is Ohio’s largest statewide business advocacy group. The Chamber works to promote and protect the interests of its members – large and small – while building a more favorable business climate in Ohio.

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