

FIA ACTION ALERT
SENATORS MAY BE ASKED TO VOTE ON EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT "COMPROMISE"
LEGISLATION AS EARLY AS JULY
CONTACT YOUR SENATORS NOW TO VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION

In recent weeks, news outlets have been reporting that Senator Harkin (D-IA), the Senate's main champion for the *Employee Free Choice Act*, has been meeting regularly with Senators Arlen Specter (D-PA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Mark Pryor (D-AR) to craft an alternative to the *Employee Free Choice Act* that can secure the 60 votes needed for cloture in the Senate. Senator Harkin has been quoted as saying that he thinks he will have the votes to bring a compromise version of the bill to the floor of the Senate in **July**. In addition, the AFL-CIO's legislative director, Bill Samuels, has been invited to be a part of these "discussions" and has been quoted as saying that any so-called compromise might include minor changes to the *Employee Free Choice Act*, **"but not changes that would undermine the basic thrust of the bill."** As you know, the basic thrust of the bill as introduced (S. 560/HR 1409) is to strip employees of their privacy when making a decision about joining a union ("card check") and also to allow government arbitrators to impose first contracts through mandatory binding arbitration.

You might remember that our Easter Recess Alert discussed this concern of possible "compromise" and focused on urging your Representatives and Senators to vote NO on S. 560, and any potential "compromises" that might be proposed. The concern remains that there is a real danger that the bill could be "repackaged" as a "compromise", thereby convincing some Senators currently on the fence about S. 560 to vote for cloture to end debate and vote on the "compromise" bill. The problem is that "compromises" being discussed (e.g., quickie elections, mail-in cards, increased workplace access, and baseball-style arbitration) are no better for the business community than the original *Employee Free Choice Act* provisions, AND, once cloture is invoked with 60 votes, then amendments can be voted on that look exactly like S. 560, and only 51 votes are needed to pass those amendments.

REQUESTED ACTION

We know that many of you have communicated with your Members of Congress on this issue already. But we believe that Senators need to continue to hear from the manufacturers and other businesses in their states, particularly if action might occur in July. Please contact your Senators and let them know that there is NO COMPROMISE on this issue. While all Senators need to receive this message, the Senators in PENNSYLVANIA, CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, ARKANSAS, and VIRGINIA, are considered "on the fence" and need repeated and continued pressure from their constituents.

We've attached a draft letter for your use, and your Senators' Washington DC address and fax numbers can be found at www.congress.org. As always, a copy to The Laurin Baker Group at 202-842-0439 (fax) or jreid@thelaurinbakergroup.com is helpful.

Thanks and let us know if you have any questions.
Laurin and Jennifer

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