



NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 3

www.nrtwc.org

March 2007

House Moves Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill *Committee Mobilizes Supporters to Defeat Power Grab in Senate*

On Valentine's Day, the Big Labor-controlled U.S. House Education and Labor Committee sent a love offering to union officials across America by rubber-stamping their most coveted legislation in the 2007-2008 Congress, 27-19.

And on March 1, union-label House leaders rammed the union bosses' pet measure through the entire chamber, 241-185.

The cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R.800), sponsored by union-lackey Labor Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.), could now come up in the U.S. Senate at any time.

Since 234 Big Labor and Big Labor-appealing representatives, who together constituted 54% of the 435-member

House, had already sponsored H.R.800 before the vote, its easy win on the floor was no surprise.

H.R.800 now heads to the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee. Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) has made it clear he will soon introduce parallel legislation.

Miller/Kennedy is commonly known as "card check" legislation, a reference to the principal way in which it would make it far easier for Big Labor to obtain "exclusive" (monopoly) bargaining control over employees.

Under current law, union bosses are already able to acquire monopoly power

to negotiate employees' pay, benefits, and work rules solely through the acquisition of signed "union authorization cards."

Consequently, individual workers under the peering eyes of union organizers may be intimidated into signing not just themselves, but all of their nonunion fellow employees, over to union-boss control.

Installation of Union Monopoly Through Card-Check Tactics Would Be Made Automatic

However, as stacked as current law is in favor of Big Labor's monopoly-bargaining power, employers nevertheless retain the right to stand up for their independent employees against union-boss intimidation tactics.

But card-check legislation would empower union officials to impose monopoly bargaining through card checks automatically, with no recourse for any pro-Right to Work employee or employer.

Another major Miller/Kennedy provision would empower union bosses to impose a first contract over the employer's objection through an outside arbitrator.

In practice, the arbitrator could unilaterally implement a wide array of Big Labor demands -- including, in the 28 non-Right to Work states, the demand that all workers who refuse to pay dues or fees to the union be fired.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) are obviously eager to ram Miller/Kennedy through Congress in order to pay Big Labor back for the estimated billion dollars in 2006 campaign support it siphoned off from union treasuries to help put them in power.

See Committee next page



CREDIT: DOLLARSANSENSE.ORG

Card-check forced-unionism legislation just rubber-stamped by the U.S. House would make it even easier for top union

bosses like SEIU chief Andy Stern (left) and Teamster czar Jim Hoffa to corral workers into unions.

Committee Aims to Defeat H.R.800

Continued from page 1

This forced dues-financed Big Labor "soft" support took many forms, including putatively "non-partisan" phone banks and get-out-the-vote drives, propaganda mailings, and the salaries and benefits of full-time campaign "volunteers" last year.

Enactment of the Miller/Kennedy legislation would surely result in a sharp spike in instances of Big Labor abuses like those described in a sworn affidavit filed last month with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) by Ryan Canney, an office cleaner at the Siltronics site in Portland, Ore.

In October 2006, Mr. Canney's employer, a cleaning contractor known as SBM, was browbeaten by Service Employee International Union (SEIU) organizers into recognizing SEIU Local 49 as the monopoly-bargaining agent over roughly 32 SBM employees at the Siltronics site based on a card check alone.

Card-Check Campaigns Routinely Involve Big Labor 'Deception and Coercion'

However, Local 49 bosses obtained many signed cards fraudulently.

For example, according to the affidavit, while the card-check drive was still underway, Local 49 bosses falsely told SBM employees that the company had already recognized the union as their monopoly-bargaining agent.

Moreover, some of the cards SBM used to determine that Local 49 had majority support were signed by people who were no longer employed by the company in October 2006. Union organizers also allegedly promised benefits to signers based on illegal pre-recognition negotiations with SBM.

Mr. Canney also pointed out that SBM had clear evidence that a majority of employees actually opposed having Local 49 as their monopoly-bargaining agent. Even before SBM recognized the union, it received a petition opposing unionization signed by a majority of employees.

"The experiences of Ryan Canney, who is now being represented by attorneys for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, and his fellow employees illustrate the deception and coercion that are routine in card-check campaigns," said National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix.

"And the Committee and our members will go all-out to defeat the

Miller/Kennedy legislation, which would seriously exacerbate the evils of card-check forced unionism.

"But defeat of Miller/Kennedy is just a first step towards repeal of the federal authorizations for union monopoly bargaining and forced dues, which has long been a key Right to Work lobbying objective."

Committee Conducts Nationwide Mobilization Against Card-Check Forced-Unionism Legislation

"Fortunately, mobilizing millions of Americans to sign petitions, write letters, and make phone calls opposing Miller/Kennedy, as the Committee has already begun to do, will also help build our strength to achieve our more fundamental goals," Mr. Mix continued.

Last month, the Committee began contacting tens of thousands of members and supporters nationwide about the imminent threat of H.R.800's House passage through a recorded phone message.

The message urges members to sign petitions to their congressmen and senators and to President Bush asking them to oppose H.R.800 and all parallel Senate legislation.

The Committee is also asking for members' financial support to "help pay

for a massive mail and phone program designed to generate petitions from up to one million Americans so Congress really begins to feel the heat."


Committee Plans to Brief Hundreds of Columnists and Editorial Writers Nationwide

"Your contribution," noted Mr. Mix, "will help us launch a full-scale public-relations effort to help expose the danger of Big Labor's Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill.

"As the battle reaches its climax, the Committee plans to brief hundreds of columnists and editorial writers in newspapers from coast to coast, significant talk-radio hosts, and -- if funds allow -- run hard-hitting television ads calling on targeted senators by name to vote against the Card-Check Forced-Unionism Bill."

Mr. Mix is optimistic that the combined impact of the Committee's grass-roots mobilization and its public outreach can help slow Miller/Kennedy down until it withers under public scrutiny.

"Once the public recognizes how extreme this legislation is, even many of Big Labor's habitual apologists will be hard-pressed to defend it," Mr. Mix noted.

"All that Committee members and supporters and our allies need do is give the American people enough time to perceive what crucial freedoms are at stake." 



CREDIT: BOSTON.COM

A new NLRB filing describes how SEIU bosses used deception and coercion to secure monopoly power over roughly 32

Oregon office cleaners through a card check. H.R.800 would multiply such Big Labor abuses.