

Majority of Senators Kowtow to Big Labor

But Right to Work Allies Stall 'Card-Check' Forced-Unionism Bill

Thumbing their noses at ordinary Americans, who overwhelmingly support every employee's Right to Work without being corralled into an unwanted union, 51 U.S. senators voted June 26 to cut off debate on, and thus clear the way for passage of, Big Labor's #1 legislative objective in the current Congress.

But although H.R.800, the cynically labeled "Employee Free Choice Act," captured the votes of a majority of senators, the bill did not secure the 60 votes needed to prevent Right to Work allies from continuing debate. Consequently, this House-passed bill has yet to steamroll through the Senate.

National Right to Work Committee President Mark Mix urged Committee members across the country to remain vigilant:

"For the time being, Big Labor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-Nev.] is saying nothing publicly about when or if he and the union hierarchy will try again to ram H.R.800 through the Senate.

"But no matter what Committee members and supporters must remain vigilant."

Employers Would Lose Prerogative to Stand Up For Independent Employees

"Fifty-one of the 100 senators have just voted to rewrite federal labor law to make it even easier for union bosses to seize so-called 'exclusive-bargaining' that is, monopoly-bargaining, power over tens of millions of employees in the American private sector," Mr. Mix continued.

"The only way Committee members and supporters can be sure Mr. Reid won't bring H.R.800 back to the Senate floor is to keep intensifying the Right to Work pressure on Capitol Hill."

H.R.800, introduced by union-label Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), and S.1041, a companion bill introduced by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), are commonly known as "card-check" legislation.

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.



Mark Mix delivers constituent petitions opposing H.R.800 to a staffer for Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.). But

even after hearing from thousands of Arkansans opposed to the bill, Mr. Pryor was to vote with Big Labor.

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

This legislation is totally contrary to the labor-policy views of the vast majority of citizens.

Vast Majority of Americans Oppose the Union Monopoly-Bargaining System

"Americans overwhelmingly oppose union monopoly bargaining, period," explained Mr. Mix. "The public certainly has no interest in backing legislation designed to help Big Labor grab monopoly-bargaining privileges over millions of additional workers."

Mr. Mix cited a December 2006 scientific nationwide survey conducted by veteran pollster Del Ali and his firm Research 2000.

The poll found that 81% of Americans who regularly vote in statewide elections believe that employees in unionized

businesses should retain the right to bargain for themselves. Just 17% of regular voters believe employees should not have that right, while 2% are unsure.

To demonstrate the strong public opposition to monopoly bargaining in general and H.R.800/S.1041 in particular, Right to Work members and supporters have since the beginning of this year flooded Congress with hundreds of thousands of postcards, letters, and phone calls opposing card-check legislation.

And just before the Senate vote to shut down debate on H.R.800 last month, Committee legislative staffers personally delivered additional tens of thousands of petitions signed by Right to Work members who oppose Miller/Kennedy.

"Right to Work members deserve much of the credit for the failure of Harry Reid's first attempt to push H.R.800 through the Senate," commented Mr. Mix.

"And now it's time for Committee members to air their outrage at the senators who voted to expand union monopoly bargaining even after hearing from their pro-Right to Work constituents."

For information on how your U.S. senators voted on H.R.800 and how to contact them, visit www.nrtwc.org/blog/archives/205 on the National Right to Work Committee's web site. 