

Change that Works:

Employee Free Choice Act

Writing Points



The Employee Free Choice Act provides a way to make sure that workers, not just CEOs, can have the chance for a voice at their companies to benefit from economic progress they help create. It gives workers the freedom to advocate for best quality services and products for consumers and customers.

What is the Employee Free Choice Act and why is it important?

- The bill says that when a majority of workers decide to join a union, they are able to do so, free of intimidation or harassment.
- Workers can choose to form their union when a majority signs cards saying they want to do so, or workers can choose to have an election.
- The bill includes meaningful penalties on companies that fire or intimidate workers who support working together in a union.
- It makes sure workers who have chosen to form a union are able to negotiate a contract to share in the prosperity of the company, just as CEOs can.

Write a letter and ask our Senators to support the Employee Free Choice Act so that other working people in this country have the freedom to choose to have a Union without having to fear the loss of their job, and are able to secure a Union contract which allows them to live the American Dream.

Address your letter to:

Sen. Patty Murray, 173 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510 Fax: (202) 224-0238
Sen. Maria Cantwell, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510 Fax: (202) 228-0514

*If you live in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 6th Congressional District, please also write to your representative and ask him to **co-sponsor** the Employee Free Choice Act.*

1st District—Rep. Jay Inslee
(403 Cannon HOB, Washington DC 20515-4701) Fax (202) 226-1606 or

2nd District—Rep. Rick Larsen
(107 Cannon HOB, Washington DC 20515-4702) Fax (202) 225-4420 or

3rd District—Rep. Brian Baird
(2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington DC 20515-4703) Fax (202) 225-3478

6th District—Rep. Norm Dicks
(2467 Rayburn HOB, Washington DC 20515) Fax (202) 226-1176

More writing tips on other side!

Helpful tips for writing your letter:

1. Introduce yourself

- Introduce yourself, including where you work, and that you are a member of SEIU.

2. Pick a theme and tell your own story about:

- How forming a union led to improvements in your family's security, or
- How you are working harder than ever but find that middle class life is further out of reach, as corporate power grows, or
- How you organized your union by majority signup, or
- The growing gap between the wealthy and the rest of us is undermining our communities (think about how the decline of the middle class is affecting the health care, health of seniors, children, students, etc.), or
- How your employer tried to intimidate co-workers when they organized their union.

3. Possible themes

- Rebuild the middle class: Family wage jobs, health insurance, secure retirement.
- Working people are struggling to make ends meet and gaining the freedom to form a union will help average people get their fair share.
- Majority sign up is a fair process for employees to choose their union...it reduces conflict in the workplace by giving workers a voice.
- Let's reform the company-dominated system that allows corporations to intimidate workers and deny them a free choice. We need a solution that gives workers, not just CEOs, the chance for a voice at their companies.
- Give workers the same freedoms to negotiate their contracts that CEOs already have.

4. Ask your Senator to take action on behalf of working families

- Please support the Employee Free Choice Act to allow workers to form a Union.
- If writing to Member of Congress, ask to co-sponsor the Employee Free Choice Act.

5. Sign your letter with your name, where you work, and SEIU

When you are finished with your letter, please return to your Organizer Representative so we can collect them and send them to Washington DC.