

SAMPLE FLIER

Restoring Workers' Freedom to Form Unions

Every worker deserves a union



Some 57 million nonunion workers in the United States say they would form a union tomorrow if given the chance. They know union strength can help them win:

- Affordable health care,
- A secure retirement,
- Better wages and job security,
- A say in their working conditions.

Under current law, few workers will have a chance to exercise their freedom to form unions. Employers routinely wage a vicious war on workers trying to form unions—using legal as well as illegal tactics.

- 92 percent of employers force workers to attend anti-union meetings.
- 78 percent of employers force workers into one-on-one anti-unions meetings with their supervisors.

- 75 percent of employers hire union-busting attorneys and consultants.
- 51 percent of employers threatened to close up shop if workers vote to join the union.
- 20,000 workers were fired or discriminated against last year for engaging in legally protected union activities.

The bipartisan Employee Free Choice Act (S. 842 and H.R. 1696) would strengthen protections for workers' struggling to form unions by:

- Allowing employees to freely choose whether to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.
- Providing mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes.
- Establishing stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.

For more information about the campaign to restore workers' freedom to form unions, visit www.aflcio.org/voiceatwork.

ACTION IDEAS: RESTORING WORKERS' FREEDOM TO FORM UNIONS

WORKERS IN AMERICA have lost a fundamental right—their freedom to form unions. Employers routinely run ruthless campaigns against workers trying to form unions and our laws do little or nothing to stop them.

Actions

■ Set up **meetings with your congressional delegation** so workers who are trying to form unions can encourage them to support the Employee Free Choice Act. Ask each elected leader for a commitment to vote for the legislation and to help the organizing workers in a concrete way—be sending a letter to the employer, issuing a public statement or taking part in a picket or rally, for example.

■ **Send the flow-through Working Families Network e-mail message** to your e-activist list on Monday, Aug. 29. The message will enable activists to urge their members of Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

■ Hold a **local workers' rights board hearing** to investigate a local employer's efforts to block workers' freedom to form a union. Get media coverage of the hearing and resulting actions or reports.

■ **Solicit and post messages of support** for organizing workers on your local union or labor council website.

■ Offer to **take union workers to meetings of local community organizations** so they can discuss the importance of union membership to immigrant workers, people of color, low-wage workers, etc.

■ Convince a local newspaper or television station to **cover the story of a worker who is trying to organize**. Often media are more willing to tell a human interest story than they would be to consider an organizing fight “news.”

■ Schedule a **member education workshop** for your labor council and local union meetings. For materials and more information, contact kbyrne@aflcio.org or via telephone at 202-639-6232.

■ At regular Labor Day events—picnics, parades, etc.—**feature workers who are trying to organize** and make this an opportunity to recognize elected leaders, community groups, clergy and others who have supported organizing workers in the past year.

■ **Hold a rally** at a workplace to support workers trying to organize there.