

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

(202) 637-5057

February 23, 2010

Dear Representative:

The AFL-CIO urges you to co-sponsor the "Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2010," scheduled to be introduced this week by Representative Conyers and Senator Durbin. The Conyers and Durbin bill would place restrictions on corporations that use the bankruptcy system as a backdoor way to slash wages and benefits for current workers and break their promises to retirees.

Bankruptcies in the steel, airline, auto and auto parts industries have destroyed the lives of tens of thousands of American families. The Conyers and Durbin bill would protect more of what workers and retirees are owed and prevent company executives from using bankruptcy as a business strategy that grossly enriches executives while impoverishing workers.

Under this legislation, workers would recover far more than they do today in lost wages, benefits, and other earnings when their employer declares bankruptcy. The legislation would also bar companies from leaving pension or health benefits intact for corporate executives if they cut or eliminate such benefits for rank-and-file workers. Finally, the Conyers and Durbin bill would restore collective bargaining as the primary method to consider reducing employment costs when a company experiences financial difficulty.

We urge you to support the Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2010 by becoming a co-sponsor today.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT