



## Organized Labor's Agenda Is Bad for U.S. Workers and the Economy

Organized labor is pushing an aggressive agenda that would impose new and costly regulations on businesses, disrupt the way businesses are run, and hamper economic recovery. This agenda is bad for U.S. competitiveness, our economy, and American workers.

### Unions Advance an Agenda That Dictates the Way Businesses Operate

- Organized labor's agenda is an aggressive plan that places burdensome and costly regulations on the American workplace; coerces workers into joining unions; increases enforcement and fines on employers; exploits union-controlled pension funds to push for changes in the proxy process and the boardroom; promotes trade protectionism; and pushes tax policies that greatly benefit union members.
- The **Employee Free Choice Act** (a.k.a. card check), the top priority for organized labor, passed the House in 2007, but failed to secure enough votes in the Senate. The bill was reintroduced in 2009. The bill would effectively replace private ballot elections in organizing drives with a card check system and force first contract negotiations into binding arbitration if the parties fail to reach an agreement within 120 days. The Chamber continues to fiercely oppose EFCA despite the fact it is unlikely the bill will advance in Congress this year. Our efforts to keep EFCA from becoming law include:
  - State and local chamber and small business member fly-ins.
  - Nationwide paid and earned media campaigns.
  - Aggressive grassroots outreach and advocacy.
  - Academic and economic studies, including a series of white papers that debunk erroneous union rhetoric on why card check is necessary ([www.uschamber.com/unionrhetic](http://www.uschamber.com/unionrhetic)).
- Unions are lobbying the Administration to use the **government procurement process** to force federal contractors to adopt more union friendly provisions. The Administration, which issued an Executive Order strongly encouraging the use of union project labor agreements for federal construction contracts, is developing regulations to chill a contractors' free speech rights in union organizing campaigns, and is expected to issue regulations that would evaluate contractors' employment policies and give favorable treatment to those offering preferred employment policies.

### Standing Up to Organized Labor

- The U.S. Chamber is determined to block organized labor's anti-business legislative initiatives, expose abusive pension fund schemes, and oppose coercive and intimidating union organizing tactics.
- The Chamber led the effort to successfully block the confirmation of Craig Becker, a former union attorney, to a five year term on the NLRB, though the president exercised his authority to offer him a temporary position on the Board without Senate confirmation.
- The Chamber is mobilizing its resources to oppose organized labor's radical agenda to rewrite our nation's employment laws to:
  - Impose a multibillion dollar ergonomics rule.
  - Expand liability and damages under federal employment laws.
  - Add new criminal penalties under safety and health laws.
  - Mandate new paid sick leave requirements.