

## Over 50 Conservative Organizations to Congress: Support the Employee Rights Act

Sept 19, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of Americans we represent across all fifty states, we encourage you to cosponsor the Employee Rights Act (H.R. 2723, S. 1774), introduced by Rep. Phil Roe and Sen. Orrin Hatch. This important bill represents the first major update to federal labor law in 70 years, and would provide several crucial protections to American workers.

This legislation would allow American workers an unencumbered opportunity to make their voice heard on whether they wish to belong to a union. According to a 2016 report from the Heritage Foundation, just 6 percent workers represented by a union nationwide actually voted for the union that represents them. The other 94 percent either voted against the union, or simply inherited a union that was voted in years ago. The Employee Rights Act (ERA) would ensure unions remain accountable to workers by requiring periodic recertification referendums after significant workforce turnover, asking workers if they wish to remain represented by their current union.

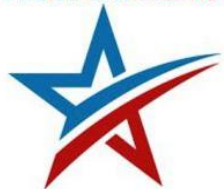
Importantly, these referendums – as well as first-time union organizing votes – would be required to be conducted by secret paper ballot election, ending the practice of “card check” that requires workers to publicly declare their opinion, thereby opening themselves up to well-documented harassment and intimidation. Americans vote for their representation in Congress by secret ballot, and should be afforded this same right in the workplace.

Another important provision of the ERA is ending the practice of unions spending workers’ dues on political advocacy without first receiving their permission. In 2016, 43 percent of union households supported a Republican for president. Yet over the last four years, unions reported sending over \$500 million of members’ dues to left-wing advocacy organizations. No one should be forced to fund causes they don’t believe in, and this bill would guarantee that protection by requiring unions to receive “opt-in” permission before spending dues on political advocacy.

This bill also contains several other commonsense reforms, such as allowing workers to opt out of having their personal information shared with a union, and strengthening worker protections by forbidding unions from using intimidation, threats, and violence to coerce workers.



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These provisions are overwhelmingly popular with the American people, including with union households. The American people have demonstrated their frustration with government that benefits special interests at the expense of the individual, and labor law is no exception – made clear by the fact that union membership has been cut in half since 1983.

We encourage you and your colleagues to take advantage of this mandate from voters, and to return power to the American worker. We encourage you to cosponsor H.R. 2723 and S. 1774, the Employee Rights Act, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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