

EFCA Continued:

While the situation is fluid, it appears that at this point, supporters of EFCA will likely drop the card check provision of the bill (which would have eliminated the secret ballot altogether), and instead would substantially narrow the time frame for an organizing election to 21 days (and thus limiting the opportunity for an employer to communicate with their employees regarding the impact unions might in the workplace).

As you know, the current bill also calls for federal arbitrators to set contracts if an employer and a new union fail to agree on a contract within 120 days. Organized labor is fighting hard to preserve the binding arbitration provision of the bill. It has been suggested that there may be some sort of compromise on this provision as well, but as the spokesperson for Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who is EFCA's chief patron, said, Senator Harkin, "remains confident that we can address these issues without compromising the core provisions of the bill." This is a clear indication that the term "compromise" means the most of the objectionable provisions will remain in the bill, particularly since Senator Arlen Specter's decision to leave the Republican Party (while Specter has said he still opposed EFCA, his opposition has been highly qualified, and he has said publicly he believes a major overhaul in the nation's labor laws is, "long past due").

The Fight Continues and We Need Your Help:

We need to continue to ensure that our congressional delegation, particularly Senators Webb and Warner continue to hear a steady drum beat of opposition to EFCA. They simply cannot think that we have forgotten about this issue, and that the compromises that are being discussed are in any way acceptable to the business community. Here are some of the things you can do to help us:

- 1) Let us know about any meetings your organization is holding that would give us an opportunity to present information on EFCA. We have a wide array of tools that will help maximize your membership's participation on this issue.
- 2) When you become aware that a member of the Congressional Delegation, particularly Senators Warner and Webb, are in your area, let us know immediately. It is critically important to have people engage the members directly about EFCA on a consistent basis.
- 3) If you become aware of a letter to the editor or an op-ed in support of or in opposition to EFCA, please make us aware of it. We want to respond as quickly as possible to any media hits (while creating some of our own).

Article of Interest:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124165379013293871.html>

Former Senator and presidential candidate George McGovern wrote an op-ed in the Wall-Street Journal this week that I thought would be of interest to you. Senator McGovern has been a steadfast supporter of organized labor, but he understands the danger of EFCA and has been a vocal opponent of the measure.

Next Steps:

Over the couple of weeks, we will be contacting you to discuss how Virginians for Workplace Fairness can assist you and your organization in our shared goal of defeating EFCA. Our coalition has a wide array of media and grassroots tools, including sample letters to the editor, op-eds, and other materials that should be helpful in educating and keeping your members up to date on EFCA.

Also, [see our updated Coalition member list](#), reflecting our new additions.