

A former Wal-Mart CEO was quoted saying, "We like driving the car and we're not going to give the steering wheel to anybody but us."

This statement gives you an idea of how corporate America feels about helping its workers and how they prevent them from organizing unions to protect their rights. The Workers Free Choice Act is legislation now proposed that would allow workers, not the corporations, to choose whether they want a union and how they want to form a union. So many times, when workers want to start or join a union, they are blocked by threats of being fired or faced with a company that is not willing to negotiate a contract in good faith.

Passage of the Workers Free Choice Act in the United States, would strengthen the penalties against companies that illegally intimidate employees that are trying to form a union. It would allow bringing in a neutral third party to settle contracts when a company and a newly certified union can't agree after three months of negotiating. This legislature, if passed, would mean letting employees decide how to express their choice to organize, either by ballot or by majority sign-up (meaning that if a majority of the employees sign Union Authorized Cards, NLR approved, a company must recognize that union.) Passage of this act would not keep employers from expressing their opinion on this, but they could not threaten or intimidate workers.

Workers as well as other unions are backed on this legislature by Bipartisan Leaders in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Nearly ¾ of the public support the Workers Free Choice Act and President Obama has said that if it is passed he would sign it into a law.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks the legislature faces in passing is the huge amounts of money and propaganda that large corporations are putting out to stop it. One of the biggest opponents of the passage, is the National Right to Work Committee, which is the country's oldest organization dedicated exclusively, to destroying unions. It's not hard to figure out where the money for backing this

committee comes from. Do you think these high paid CEO's would work without a signed contract to protect their jobs?

If we, as working Americans, can get this act into law, this would be just a start to giving more strength back to unions in this country. It would mean a better chance at negotiating good contracts in the hard economic times. It would mean the likelihood of workers having better working conditions in the workplace, as well as being able to negotiate safe work rules. The unions in the United States would experience major benefits from the passage of this legislature. It is my opinion that this is the key to turning around the American economy. Union households would have much more of a chance to have provided health care. The guaranteed pensions would be much more common and workers would earn a large percentage more than non-union workers.

As students getting ready for college, we see our parents working many long and hard hours to support the dream of sending us to get a higher education. Many students do not realize what unions do if they are not from a "Union Family." The Workers Free Choice Act, if passed, would definitely allow more young Americans to experience the benefits that I have become accustomed to. The unions would be stronger and the United States would be an even better place to live and raise a family.

Thank you for any consideration you may give me for your scholarship.

Michael J. Brennan