



## **National Legislation Alert**

*Important Member Notification Message*

### **Card Check Legislation Introduced in Congress**

The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) or “card check” legislation was introduced in both the House and the Senate yesterday. It has now been referred to committee. The bill number for the Senate version of EFCA is S. 560 and has 40 cosponsors. The House version is HR 1409 and has 223 cosponsors. The Texas representatives who have signed onto this bill are as follows:

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez [D-TX] San Antonio  
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX] Houston  
Rep. Silvestre Reyes [D-TX] El Paso  
Rep. Gene Green [D-TX] Houston  
Rep. Al Green [D-TX] Houston  
Rep. Solomon Ortiz [D-TX] Corpus Christi  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett [D-TX] Austin  
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson [D-TX] Dallas  
Rep. Charlie Gonzalez [D-TX] San Antonio  
Rep. Rubén Hinojosa [D-TX] Mercedes

This is labor’s top agenda item this Congress. TMTA and SMA are strongly opposed to this harmful legislation and recently voiced our views to Congressional leaders during our *Call on Washington*. However, more needs to be done. Our Texas representatives need to hear from you, the voters who put them in office. It is imperative that you contact your U.S. Representatives and Senators today and ask them to oppose this legislation.

EFCA would offer union organizers a significantly easier road to success in signing up workers. These card check campaigns also do not include important protections provided for in law and the act would waive secret ballot elections. As demonstrated countless times in actual organizing campaigns, card checks are often accompanied by stories of union coercion, intimidation and abuse. The legislation would institute a mandatory binding arbitration provision whereby a government bureaucrat would impose a non-negotiable first contract for two years.

Texas is a right-to-work state, but EFCA is as serious a concern in terms of facilitating union organization in right-to-work states as it is in other states. Once organized, the only difference between a right-to-work and a non-right-to-work state is that the union will not be allowed to attempt to secure an employer’s agreement in the collective bargaining process that all employees must join the union.

For questions on this legislation, please contact the American Trucking Associations’ Capitol Hill office at 202/544-6245 or [grassroots@trucking.org](mailto:grassroots@trucking.org). Or contact Southwest Movers Association at 512/476-0107. To contact your legislators, visit <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us> and type your information into the fields under “*Who Represents Me?*”

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