

Monroe County Legislature

HARRY B. BRONSON
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

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No. <u>000054</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -1.

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Re: Memorializing the United States Congress to Pass and President Barack Obama to Sign into Law the Employee Free Choice Act.

Honorable Legislators:

America has a long history of socioeconomic progress, including the hard fought battle by its workers at the dawn of the 20th century for better wages, safer working conditions, and equitable treatment by employers. Since 1935, American workers have had the legal right to form and join unions, a right we must cherish and protect in order to maintain a prosperous and just economic system in our country.

On average, unionized workers earn 29% more than non-unionized workers, are 35% more likely to have access to health insurance, and are four times more likely to have access to a guaranteed defined-benefit pension. Unions help all Americans improve their standard of living, increasing median weekly earnings 31% for unionized women, 31% for unionized African-American workers, 50% for unionized Latino workers, and 9% for unionized Asian-American workers. States in which more residents are union members are states with higher wages, better benefits, improved schools and safer workplaces.

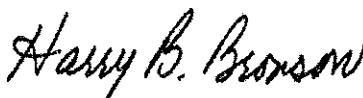
Despite these obvious benefits to society, 25% of private-sector employers have illegally fired union members during organizing campaigns, and 78% of employers mandate that all employees attend anti-union meetings.

These employer actions fly in the face of strong pro-worker support amongst the public. Seventy-seven percent of the public believes it is important to have strong laws protecting the freedom for workers to make their own decisions about having a union, and 58% of workers would join a union if they had the chance. These numbers do not lie; unions are supported by the American people, and serve as a means and a method of improving the livelihoods of vast numbers of American workers.

The Employee Free Choice Act was last introduced in the 110th Congress in order to restore workers' freedom to join a union. It will not only safeguard workers' ability to make their own decisions in regard to unionizing but will provide for first contract mediation and arbitration, and establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to choose a union. The Employee Free Choice Act is a necessary tool for re-establishing workers' rights to form and join unions, rights that have unfairly come under attack in recent years.

Therefore, we respectfully memorialize our colleagues in the United States Congress to reintroduce, pass and for President Barack Obama to sign the Employee Free Choice Act in order to better protect American workers.

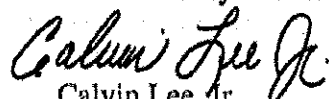
Respectfully submitted,



Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader




Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator - District 6



Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator - District 8



Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



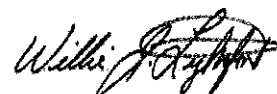
Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



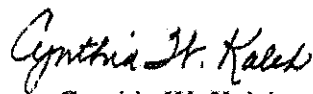
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26



Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27



Cynthia W. Kaleh
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