



MEMBER ALERT: Employee Free Choice Act

AAHOA
Member Advisory

July 27, 2008

Dear AAHOA Member,

By now you have received several Member Alerts and seen several ALB articles voicing AAHOA's **continuing strong opposition** to the mis-named "Employee Free Choice Act" (EFCA), otherwise known as the card-check bill. You have learned of this bill's potentially disastrous effects for small businesses everywhere, the threat it poses to the ability of workers to vote their consciences, and of AAHOA's work as a Steering Executive Committee member of the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace (CDW) to defeat this problematic piece of legislation.

In order to tell the truth about the card-check bill, the CDW has aired ads which, though dramatized, underscore its very-real danger, with well-known *Sopranos* actor Vincent Curatola enlisted to portray the grim prospect of union ballots which are not private:
<http://www.capitolconnect.com/aahoa/links.aspx>.

The response of union supporters to these ads, not surprisingly, has been less than favorable, with tensions evident at a recent protest in Maine, with a supporter even knocking over a CDW table:
http://www.wgme.com/News/story_video/playFlashVideo.shtml?WGME_newsh. It is easy to wonder if similar tactics would be used in the workplace should the card-check bill become law.

In response to the well-funded union lobby, which has accumulated an estimated \$300 million in PAC funds to back Democratic candidates in the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections, several employers are taking steps to educate their employees. Specifically, Wal-Mart has recently undertaken a targeted campaign to inform its employees about aspects of the bill which tend to be underemphasized by the unions, such as the out-of-pocket costs associated with unionization.

In another attempt to counter the union lobby, AH&LA has launched a major fundraising initiative, with the goal of raising **\$5 per hotel room** for the AH&LA Legislative Readiness Fund. This fund will be used to support the efforts of the CDW.

Contributions may be from personal, corporate or partnership funds, payable to the "AH&LA Legislative Readiness Fund" and mailed to the American Hotel & Lodging Association (c/o Marlene Colucci, 1201 New York Ave., NW, 6th floor, Washington, D.C. 20005-3931. You may also pay by credit card online at <http://www.ahla.com/genericform.aspx?ekfrm=22474>.

The card-check bill is still very much alive in Congress, and very much a threat to the interests of small businesses everywhere, including YOUR hotels. For this reason, AAHOA members are strongly encouraged to contribute to this worthy cause, and to contact their elected representatives by visiting the AAHOA advocacy website at <http://www.capitolconnect.com/aahoa>. Please contact Managing Attorney Jordan Gillman at 404-419-8983 or jordan@aahoa.com with any questions.