

House Joint Memorial 7

Sponsored by Representatives ROSENBAUM, MERKLEY, HOLVEY, WITT; Representatives BARKER, BARNHART, BEYER, BONAMICI, BUCKLEY, CANNON, CLEM, DINGFELDER, C EDWARDS, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, GELSER, GREENLICK, HUNT, KOMP, NATHANSON, READ, RILEY, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, SHIELDS, TOMEI

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass Employee Free Choice Act.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas in 1935, the United States established, by law, that workers must be free to form unions; and

Whereas the freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized as a fundamental human right; and

Whereas union membership provides workers better wages and benefits, and protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces; and

Whereas unions benefit communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

Whereas workers want to organize but cannot, as more than 58 million United States workers say they would join a union now if they had the opportunity; and

Whereas even though on paper America's workers have the freedom to choose for themselves whether to have a union, in reality workers across the nation are routinely denied that right; and

Whereas when the right of workers to form a union is violated, wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases and job safety standards disappear; and

Whereas many thousands of America's workers are routinely threatened, coerced or fired each year because they try to form a union; and

Whereas most violations of workers' freedom to choose a union occur behind closed doors, and each year millions of dollars are spent to frustrate workers' efforts to form unions; and

Whereas a worker's fundamental right to choose a union is a public issue that requires public policy solutions, including legislative remedies; and

Whereas the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in the United States Congress in order to restore workers' freedom to join a union; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, support the Employee Free Choice Act, which would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union as the

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 bargaining representative when a majority of employees voluntarily sign authorizations designating
2 the union to represent them, would provide for first-contract mediation and arbitration and would
3 establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to choose a union; and be it
4 further

5 Resolved, That we urge Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act to protect and preserve
6 for America's workers their freedom to choose for themselves whether or not to form a union; and
7 be it further

8 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader and the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.
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