

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2009

Three Groups Endorse Employee Free Choice Act
Unanimous Support Expressed at Conference

Roanoke, W.Va. – On Saturday May 9, 2009, three West Virginia Democratic organizations unanimously adopted resolutions supporting the federal Employee Free Choice Act and urged Congress and the President to enact it.

Meeting at a West Virginia Democratic Party conference at Stonewall Jackson Resort, the West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee, West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women, and West Virginia Young Democrats each unanimously endorsed the Employee Free Choice Act before Congress now. The groups also recognized and supported the four members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation who have chosen to co-sponsor the legislation: Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller and Congressmen Nick Rahall and Alan Mollohan.

A copy of the adopted resolution is attached and contact information for the three participating organizations follows below:

WV State Democratic Executive Committee
Nick Casey, Chair
(304) 342-8121 – HQ

West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women
Belinda Biafore, President
(304) 342-8121—HQ

West Virginia Young Democrats
Justin Williams, President
(304) 342-8121—HQ

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EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

WHEREAS, the freedom to form unions is a human right; and

WHEREAS, employees should have the freedom to make their own choices about choosing a union, without interference from management; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to form a union is a fundamental human right widely recognized by international law, U.S. law, and the tenets of most major religions; and

WHEREAS, 42 million workers who are not represented by a union have stated that they would like to be represented; and

WHEREAS, Union collective bargaining is good for our economy, because it puts more income in hands of working people who pay their fair share of taxes and drive our economy by spending their income; and

WHEREAS, union workers have lower turnover rates and increase productivity by having a say in how their work is done; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act provides for certification of a union if the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) finds a majority of employees has signed authorization cards designating the union as the collective bargaining representative; and

WHEREAS, a majority sign-up procedure is an effective and democratic way to determine the wishes of employees; and

WHEREAS, if no agreement on a first contract between an employer and a newly certified union has been reached after 90 days of bargaining, either the employer or the union may request mediation by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS); and

WHEREAS, first-contract mediation and arbitration is necessary, because management can frustrate employee free choice by refusing to bargain; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act helps to ensure employees' free choice to form unions by providing effective remedies – including injunctive relief and monetary penalties –against employer coercion; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee does hereby support the Employee Free Choice Act and urge Congress and the President to adopt it.