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December 1, 2008

The Honorable Richard Durbin
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the 700 business Members of the Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, I am writing to you in opposition of HR800/S1041, the Employee Free Choice Act which is expected to be reintroduced and considered in the early part of the 111th Congress.

This bill undermines long standing principles of workplace democracy and fairness and will result in employees having less ability to determine if they wish to be represented by a union. Although promoted as a 'labor reform' bill, this bill is far from a positive reform. The legislation will radically restructure 60 years of well crafted labor law balances that have served both union and employers for many decades.

All of the provisions in the bill are unacceptable. The first is the elimination of the secret ballot. If this provision is enacted, the current system where a federally supervised election process with secret ballots determines whether employees will have a union in their work place; would be eliminated. Trading the secret ballot process for one that invites intimidation and coercion and leads to widespread disenfranchisement of workers is not a step in the right direction. This may also be called an elimination of rights – far from a positive reform.

"Card Check" also fails to ensure that all workers get a voice in the process. Once a majority of workers sign authorization cards, the rest of the workers are forced to accept the decision—even if they have been left out of the process completely.

This is not a partisan issue; it is a job growth and economic issue. Please protect the ability of American workers to choose whether or not to unionize through federally-supervised secret ballot elections.

Sincerely,

Laura Crawford
President & CEO

cc: Board of Directors