



2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 7

May 14, 2007 – Introduced by Senator ROBSON. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act.

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

4 Whereas, the freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized by
5 the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a fundamental human right;
6 and

7 Whereas, the free choice to join with others and bargain for better wages and
8 benefits is essential to economic opportunity and good living standards; and

9 Whereas, unions benefit communities by strengthening living standards,
10 stabilizing tax bases, promoting equal treatment, and enhancing civic participation;
11 and

12 Whereas, states in which more people are union members are states with
13 higher wages, better benefits, and better schools; and

14 Whereas, union workers receive better wages and benefits, with union workers
15 earning 29 percent more than workers without a union, are 35 percent more likely

1 to have access to health insurance, and are four times more likely to have access to
2 a guaranteed defined-benefit pension; and

3 Whereas, unions help raise workers' pay and narrow the income gap for
4 minorities and women, by increasing median weekly earnings by 31 percent for
5 union women workers, 31 percent for African-American workers, 50 percent for
6 Latino workers, 9 percent for Asian American workers; and

7 Whereas, workers across the nation are routinely denied the freedom to form
8 unions and bargain for a better life, with 25 percent of private-sector employers
9 illegally firing at least one worker for union activity during organizing campaigns;
10 and

11 Whereas, 77 percent of the public believes it is important to have strong laws
12 protecting the freedom for workers to make their own decision about having a union,
13 and 58 percent of workers would join a union if they had the chance; and

14 Whereas, employers often refuse to bargain fairly with workers after forming
15 a union by dragging out first contract bargaining for up to two years in 45 percent
16 of successful campaigns; and

17 Whereas, each year millions of dollars are spent to frustrate workers' efforts to
18 form unions, and most violations of workers' freedom to choose a union occur behind
19 closed doors, with 78 percent of employers forcing employees to attend mandatory
20 anti-union meetings; and

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

