



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

January 27, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Max Anderson, and Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Making Employee Free Choice Act a Very High Federal Priority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council urge Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein to put the Employee Free Choice Act as a very high priority on their legislative agenda.

BACKGROUND:

The AFL-CIO's top legislative priority for the 2009 legislative year is to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. According to the AFL-CIO, 60 million workers would form a union if they had a chance and as many as one-quarter of employers illegally fire workers who try to form unions.

The Employee Free Choice Act would protect workers' freedoms to belong to unions and reduce employers' harassment, intimidation, coercion and even firing of workers struggling to gain a union so they can bargain for better lives.

The Employee Free Choice Act would give workers a fair chance to form a union by:

- Allowing them to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.
- Providing mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes.
- Establishing stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

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