

# Senate Memorial 2

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES

## 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 to protect and preserve for American workers freedom to form or join unions.

## SENATE MEMORIAL

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

We, your memorialists, the Senate of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas in 1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, giving employees the right to form unions and bargain collectively with their employers; and

Whereas Oregon law recognizes that "Experience in private and public employment has also proved that protection by law of the right of employees to organize and negotiate collectively safeguards employees and the public from injury, impairment and interruptions of necessary services, and removes certain recognized sources of strife and unrest, by encouraging practices fundamental to the peaceful adjustment of disputes arising out of differences as to wages, hours, terms and other working conditions"; and

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

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

Whereas unions provide benefits to communities by strengthening the tax base, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

Whereas more than 40 million workers in the United States say they would join a union if they had the opportunity; and

Whereas although the law protects a worker's freedom to choose whether to join 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 join unions 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

**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       Whereas the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in the United States Congress, as  
2 Senate Bill 1925 and House Resolution 3619, to restore workers' freedom to join a union; now,  
3 therefore,

4 **Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:**

5       That we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, support the  
6 Employee Free Choice Act, which would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a  
7 union as the bargaining representative when a majority of employees voluntarily sign authorization  
8 cards designating a union to represent them, require timely resolution of disputes in contract ne-  
9 gotiations for newly represented workers through mediation and arbitration, and establish mean-  
10 ingful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to choose to join a union; and be it further

11       Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, urge  
12 the Congress of the United States to pass the Employee Free Choice Act to protect and preserve for  
13 American workers the freedom to choose whether to form or join a union; and be it further

14       Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congres-  
15 sional Delegation.

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