
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4037

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Simpson, G., Wallace, Chase, Flannigan, McCoy, O'Brien, Hudgins, Campbell and Morrell

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, In 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations
9 adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which
10 includes Article 23, providing for worker rights to just and favorable
11 conditions of work and to form and join trade unions for the protection
12 of worker interests; and

13 WHEREAS, Worker rights to form and join unions are increasingly
14 eroded in the United States, according to the 2000 Human Rights Watch
15 Report, by the failure of federal labor laws to provide adequate,
16 timely, and just remedies for violations; and

17 WHEREAS, Surveys of workers show that forty-two million nonunion
18 workers would like to join a union, these same surveys cite employer
19 union avoidance tactics as the principal reason that workers who say
20 they want a union do not have a union; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1998, as many as twenty-four thousand workers won
2 compensation after being fired or punished for union activity, an
3 illegal act that may occur in at least twenty-five percent of union
4 organizing drives; and

5 WHEREAS, Federal law allows employers to refuse to recognize a
6 union even when all of its employees have signed union authorization
7 cards and even though most employers who used neutrality agreements or
8 card check agreements report that the agreements resulted in improved
9 relations with the union and more resources devoted to other business
10 goals; and

11 WHEREAS, Even after workers vote to have a union, delays in
12 reaching an initial contract can deny workers the benefit of collective
13 bargaining, a situation that may occur in nearly one-third of
14 negotiations for initial contracts; and

15 WHEREAS, Federal law provides no effective remedy for the failure
16 of an employer to bargain in good faith, since such a charge is
17 difficult to prove and typically will not be resolved in the courts for
18 several years;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
20 States Congress protect worker rights by enacting the Employee Free
21 Choice Act of 2003, S. 1925 or H.R. 3619, or substantially similar
22 legislation.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
25 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
26 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
27 Washington.

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