

This week the majority introduced a bill misleadingly named the “Employee Free Choice Act” which will only do more damage to our economy. This legislation is more appropriately known as the “card check” bill. It will eliminate secret ballot elections when workers vote whether or not to unionize. The card check process requires only a simple majority of workers’ signatures on cards, denying them any privacy in order to unionize a workplace. This system opens workers to intimidation and reprisal from labor bosses or employers.

Could you imagine someone standing over your shoulder while you were in the voting booth last November? Complete strangers could know how you voted and what ballot initiatives you supported.

Free elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. Casting a secret ballot has been a right since our country was founded. The card check bill would throw this fundamental right out the window. Despite the title, there is nothing free about this legislation, only more control over the workplace.

The impact of this bill would be devastating to small businesses and economic recovery. It would not create any new jobs or help turn the economy around. A recent study by renowned economist Dr. Anne Layne-Farrar, who works for a non-partisan consulting firm, estimated that more than 600,000 jobs could be lost as a result of this legislation. Now is not the time to be considering measures that could result in more Americans losing their jobs. Instead, we need to be working together to create more jobs.

Even Warren Buffet, one of President Obama’s own economic advisors and successful investor, is opposed to the card check legislation. Just last week on CNBC he stated his opposition to this bill and voiced his support for secret ballots. And polls overwhelmingly show that the vast majority of Americans are opposed to this senseless legislation.

Let me be clear, I am not opposed to unions and I understand unions can serve a useful purpose to serve American workers. However, card check severely undermines our democracy and is just wrong.

We Must Protect Secret Ballots

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I have cosponsored the “Secret Ballot Protection Act” that will ensure no one can take away a worker’s right to a secret ballot. This bill is a common sense policy that protects workers against coercion, violence or retribution by union organizers.

Americans are clearly struggling and all members of Congress need to work together to find solutions to put people back to work. Sadly, some in the majority want to push through this dangerous policy in the midst of this crisis, which will stall economic growth and cost Americans jobs. I will continue to fight against this card check legislation and protect the democratic principle of workplace privacy.