



ABA News

Press Release from the American Bakers Association



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Contact: Kelly Kotche
ABA Membership & Communications Manager
kkotche@americanbakers.org; Ph: 202-789-0300

House Passes Union-Backed Card Check Bill *ABA Members Voice Strong Opposition*

“We are obviously extremely disappointed that the House passed the card check legislation, however we are very pleased that in large part due to bakers’ relentless calls and letters to their Representatives that the vote was so narrow,” said ABA President and CEO Robb MacKie. “The national response from bakers of all sizes and product segments resulted in a number of targeted Representatives reconsidering their support for this misguided legislation. I believe that if the House leadership had waited another month or two, ABA’s and the rest of the business community’s grassroots efforts could have defeated or tabled this bill. It is our sincere hope that the Senate will carefully consider the narrow House vote before deciding whether to bring this bill for a vote,” said Mr. MacKie.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Education & Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA), yesterday pushed through (H.R.) 800, the so-called “The Employee Free Choice Act,” by a largely partisan margin of 241-185. H.R. 800 would take away employees’ right to secret ballots in union organizing elections. The bill also would require mandatory arbitration of first collective bargaining agreements after 90 days. Passage of H.R. 800 is one of the top priorities for the new House leadership and their allies.

H.R. 800 was supported by 228 House Democrats and thirteen Republicans. Two Democrats opposed the bill. The bill is expected to face increased opposition in the U.S. Senate, where Republican lawmakers have pledged to filibuster the measure. Additionally, Vice President Richard B. Cheney stated publicly earlier this month that “if [H.R. 800] is sent to the president, he will veto the bill.”

“Senators need to hear from ABA and its member companies on the negative impact this legislation would have on the baking industry,” said Kelly Knowles, ABA Director of Government & Political Affairs. “This issue is about basic fairness and protecting the delicate balance between companies and employee representatives in union recognition situations. H.R. 800 dramatically skews the balance while interfering with employees’ abilities to make such an important decision free of intimidation and coercion,” Ms. Knowles said.

ABA is leading the baking industry’s fight against the card-check proposal. Among other activities, ABA is a member of the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace; a broad-based business group formed to oppose the legislation.

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1300 I Street, NW, Suite 700 West • Washington, DC 20005
Phone 202-789-0300 • Fax 202-898-1164 • www.americanbakers.org