

**Robert B. Reich**  
**Former U.S. Secretary of Labor**  
**Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley**

**Statement on the Employee Free Choice Act**  
**February 26, 2007**

America's rising economic tide is lifting executive yachts but leaving most working people in leaky boats. Workers need more bargaining power. The Employee Free Choice Act would let them form unions when a majority wants one -- as simple as that. The current process is so lengthy and complex that some corporations use it to fire or harass workers who try to organize unions. (In 2005 alone, over 30,000 workers got back pay from employers who illegally fired or discriminated against them for their union activities.)

Opponents say this bill would open the door to intimidation of workers by other workers who want to form unions. The reality is just the opposite. The Employee Free Choice Act would close the door to intimidation by employers. The only people at the workplace who can truly intimidate are employers, because only they have the power to fire someone from his or her job. The sad record of recent years shows that too many of them have used that power to block the right of workers to unionize. This Act would end that, and give employees true freedom of choice.