

RESOLUTION NO. 277

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE SUPPORTING ENACTMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT AS PROPOSED IN H.R. 1409/ S. 560

Introduced: 7/13/09

By Messrs. Bullock, Nichols and Steck:

WHEREAS, The National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935 to guarantee workers in the United States the right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions and mandates that workers and their employers bargain in good faith about wages, benefits and other working conditions once the workers have formed a union, and

WHEREAS, It has been incredibly weakened over the years, and often manipulated by anti-union companies often forcing workers to wait years to hear the results of their union election, and even longer for an actual contract with their employer, and

WHEREAS, Public opinion polls indicate that a majority of U.S. workers say they would join a union now if they had the opportunity, and

WHEREAS, Union membership provides workers better wages and benefits, and protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces, while benefiting whole communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation, and

WHEREAS, Even though laws guarantee America's workers the right to choose for themselves whether to have a union, employers across the nation routinely violate that right by harassing, intimidating, and firing workers for exercising this freedom, and

WHEREAS, The Employee Free Choice Act, bi-partisan legislation in Congress, will help begin to fix the broken process through which workers form unions by speeding the process that certifies whether a majority of workers at a company want to form a union, speeding the process of negotiating a first union contract, increasing penalties for employers who violate workers' rights, strengthening protections for workers' freedom to choose a union by requiring employers to recognize a union after a majority of workers sign cards authorizing union representation, and by providing for mediation and arbitration of first-contract disputes, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature expresses its support for the Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 1409 and S. 560), and calls upon federal legislators and the President to work toward its immediate enactment, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to United States Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, United States Representative Paul Tonko, President Barack Obama and the appropriate County Officials.

Resolution was withdrawn by sponsors. 7/13/09