



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Soon you will be asked to reconsider a bill that passed the U.S. House in 2007. The misnamed Employee Free Choice Act – strongly supported by union organizers – will strip workers of their right to decide in private whether to be represented by a union. Current law allows a group of employees to pursue the formation of a union through an election that follows uniform requirements and is supervised by the government. Employees are presented information from both the union and the employer, and then vote by secret ballot. The union-backed legislation would eliminate the election and allow union formation based on signed cards from a majority of employees (50 percent plus one).

Texas hospitals support the right of employees to form a union. Employees should be presented the facts and decide if a third-party negotiator improves their employee-employer relationship. However, a “card check” process invites corruption and strong-arm tactics to get signatures. Abandoning the long-standing approach to union elections shows a lack of respect for employees and their right to make an informed choice in an environment free from pressure and potential retribution.

The government of the United States is a democracy that is admired and emulated around the world. Eliminating the secret-ballot election is contrary to the principles on which this country was founded.

On behalf of the Texas Hospital Association’s more than 500 member-hospitals and -health systems, I urge you to vote “no” on the Employee Free Choice Act when it is re-introduced this session. Your rejection of this un-American proposal will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE  
President/Chief Executive Officer