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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 151, et seq.) the United States Congress declared it to be the policy of the United States to encourage the practice of collective bargaining by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection; and

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WHEREAS, The freedom to form or join a union is a fundamental human right; and

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WHEREAS, Unions benefit communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment, and enhancing civic participation; and

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WHEREAS, Fifty-seven million United States workers have indicated that they would join a union if given the opportunity; and

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WHEREAS, Even though the nation's workers ostensibly have the freedom to choose whether to organize, in reality they are routinely denied that right; and

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WHEREAS, When the right of workers to form a union is violated, wages decline, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases, and job safety standards lapse; and

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WHEREAS, Each year, 20,000 of America's workers are illegally threatened, coerced, or terminated for attempting to form a union; and

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WHEREAS, Most violations of workers' freedom to join a

1 union occur behind closed doors, and each year millions of
2 dollars are spent to frustrate workers' efforts to organize;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, A worker's fundamental right to join a union is a
5 public issue that requires public policy solutions, including
6 legislative remedies; and

7 WHEREAS, Federal legislation, the Employee Free Choice
8 Act, has been introduced in the United States Congress with
9 bipartisan support in both chambers (S. 842 and H.R. 1696) in
10 order to restore workers' freedom to join unions; therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14 CONCURRING HEREIN, that that we urge the Congress of the United
15 States of America to enact the Employee Free Choice Act that
16 would protect and preserve the freedom of America's workers to
17 organize and join unions by authorizing the National Labor
18 Relations Board to certify a union as the bargaining
19 representative when a majority of employees voluntarily sign
20 authorization cards (commonly known as "card check"
21 recognition), providing for first contract mediation and
22 arbitration, and establishing meaningful penalties for
23 violations of a worker's right to join a union; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
26 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the
27 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member
28 of the Illinois congressional delegation.