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## **Blount Chamber Tells Congress to Oppose “Card Check”**

*Legislation Would Violate Tennessee Worker Privacy and  
Make Businesses Less Competitive*

The Blount County Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Governor Phil Bredesen, Congressman Jimmy Duncan and the Tennessee Congressional delegation opposing Card Check legislation, pointing out that it would effectively strip employees of a private ballot in union organizing drives, interfere with a worker’s ability to deal directly with their employer, and force unfair mandates on businesses.

Card Check “invites intimidation and coercion [and] leads to widespread disenfranchisement of workers” by effectively removing the secret ballot in union elections, the letters point out. It also forces employers into “binding interest arbitration to set all the terms and conditions of a union contract,” impairing American companies’ ability to compete globally.

According to Chamber President & CEO, Fred Forster, “This proposed legislation is not in the best interest of business or the workforce which is why we oppose this legislation.”

The letter also points out that workers in right-to-work states—those with laws prohibiting required union membership of workers—are “just as likely as those in other states to find themselves suddenly unionized as the result of a secret card check campaign.” Chambers of Commerce in all 22 right-to-work states sent similar letters to Congress.

Data recently compiled by the U.S. Chamber showed that the economies of right-to-work states grew faster than those that compelled payment of union dues. “Over the five-year period from 2001 – 2006, the average right-to-work state saw its gross state product grow by 18.1 percent, versus 13.6 percent for non-right-to-work states,” the research in the study *Is Unionization the Ticket to the Middle Class? The Real Economic Effects of Labor Unions* points out.

“Given these difficult times, it is more critical than ever that businesses have the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of a challenging economy if we are to create an environment in which businesses can grow and create jobs,” the letter states. Card Check “is inconsistent with this critical goal.”

View the full letter here: [http://www.uschamber.com/wfi/090210\\_righttowork](http://www.uschamber.com/wfi/090210_righttowork)

View the full study here: [http://www.uschamber.com/assets/labor/unionrhetoric\\_econeffects.pdf](http://www.uschamber.com/assets/labor/unionrhetoric_econeffects.pdf)

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