

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

This legislation, which would allow employees to form a union by signing cards (“card check”), instead of holding secret ballot elections is being bombarded by business interests across the country. Now, however, with some Democratic willingness to drop the card check portion of a union organizing bill, opponents of the measure are intensifying their attack on another major provision: binding arbitration if a new union and management cannot agree on a first contract within 120 days.

Arbitration now looms as the most prominent sticking point. Anti-union groups, already spending millions on television advertising, direct mail and lobbying campaigns against the bill, have tweaked their message to stress how damaging they believe arbitration will be to employers.

Labor advocates say they are committed to passing a bill that allows workers to join a union without intimidation, harassment and unfair delays. Once a compromise is reached, Democrats are expected to push for a quick vote sometime after Congress passes health care reform legislation.

“There has to be a dispute resolution mechanism that doesn’t allow employers to delay and use that as a last trap door to avoid the employees’ decision to have a union,” said Richard Trumpka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO.