



18 November 2009

RE: Cosponsor Sen. Cornyn Congressional Review Act Disapproval Resolution

To All Senators:

On behalf of the Alliance for Worker Freedom (AWF), an organization established in 2003 to combat anti-worker legislation and promote free and open labor markets, **I urge you to cosponsor Senator Cornyn's Congressional Review Act resolution disapproving the October 13 ruling by the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) to no longer require unions to file LM-2 financial disclosure forms.**

By dissolving LM-2 forms, per request of the Department of Labor, the OLMS has lost sight of arguably its most important responsibility, protecting rank-and-file union members against corruption. This year alone, between January and October, OLMS reports obtaining indictments and convictions in cases that total nearly \$3 million in theft from union accounts. There is no reason to think that removing all forms of accountability and oversight would improve the already embarrassing levels of corruption present in union finances.

Clearly LM-2 forms were working, they consistently allowed the OLMS to investigate and convict wrongdoers who in many cases would have never been questioned. Cancelling LM-2s because they have been deemed too expensive is a step backwards, in fact, not all unions are required to file financial statements with OLMS, only ones that meet annual threshold amounts.

Further distorting union's financial statements could not come at a worse time for workers. Presently, a large number of unions have insolvent pension plans which will soon go belly up and force union members into the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, a government body that provides minimal support for workers who, by no fault of their own, lose their pensions.

Additionally, unions have an obligation to their members to ensure that their records and financial accounts are transparent and open to scrutiny. In a majority of states, states without right-to-work-laws, certain professions require workers to join a union, and thus pay union dues. After requiring workers to pay union dues and enter into pension plans, the least a union can do is to tell its workers where their money is going.

Senator Cornyn's proposal is one that ensures transparency, a topic much discussed this past year, and is a proven way to identify fraud. Help protect workers by cosponsoring Sen. Cornyn's CRA disapproval resolution. To become a co-sponsor, contact Michelle Chin at 4-2934 or email at michelle_chin@cornyn.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Johnson, MPA
Executive Director

cc: All US Senators

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