

Workers' Rights **are** Human Rights

Dec. 10: International Human Rights Day

Some 57 million American workers say they would join a union today if they could, according to a national survey. They want to join together to win better pay, better benefits, better working conditions, and a voice on the job.

But employers routinely harass and intimidate—even fire—workers to deny their legal freedom to choose for themselves whether to have a union.

Restore the Freedom to Form Unions!

On December 10, 1948, the U.N. approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, calling upon all nations to protect the basic rights of all people—including the right to organize unions. But 57 years later, American employers consistently violate these basic human rights.

When the freedom to join unions is taken away, we all pay the price:

- Wages and benefits are weakened in the community and in whole industries
- Inequality and poverty grow
- Race and gender gaps widen
- Public services are shortchanged
- Corporate control is unchecked

It's time to fight back. Today's unions are fighting to defend human rights and restore the right to form a union. That fight includes the Employee Free Choice Act, U.S. labor law reform that will level the playing field for American workers. For information about the EFCA and the right to unionize, visit www.wslc.org.

Call Rep. Dave Reichert!

206-275-3438

(Mercer Island office)

Urge Rep. Reichert to sponsor the Employee Free Choice Act. Six U.S. Representatives from Washington State have already signed the EFCA. Tell Reichert to sign, too!

PLUS

Urge Rep. Reichert to oppose implementation of the National Security Personnel System.

Tell Rep. Reichert to stand up for federal workers and restore their right to have a voice at work.

(See reverse for additional info on federal workers.)

To get involved, contact Washington State Jobs with Justice at 206-441-4969.



Federal employees outside Rep. Reichert's office.

Protect Federal Employees' Rights!

Since Sept. 11, 2001—despite the heroism of hundreds of union Fire Fighters and other first responders who perished in the line of duty that day—the Bush administration has declared unions to be an impediment to national security. More than 200,000 federal workers have been stripped of their right to have a voice at work. The Bush administration's goal is to **strip ALL U.S. civil service employees of this right.**

The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) is the latest attempt to throw out federal civil service rules, in this case at the Department of Defense. Twice the Bush administration has imposed similar changes at the Department of Homeland Security, and twice their efforts have been ruled to be illegal by a federal judge. Despite this, plans proceed to impose the NSPS.

The Bush administration is defying Congress. In issuing the NSPS, the Defense Dept. refused to consult with the unions that represent its employees, as Congress explicitly called for in the Defense Authorization Act.

It's time to fight back. Today's unions are fighting to restore basic workplace rights for federal civil service employees. That fight includes urging our elected U.S. Representatives to insist that the Bush administration stop its attacks on federal workers. For more information about the NSPS, visit www.afge.org.

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Washington State

