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June 18, 2007

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice our strong opposition to the so-called "Employee Free Choice Act," S. 1041/H.R. 800. The proposed measure deserves very careful examination, including being the subject of a committee vote, prior to consideration by the full Senate. Therefore, **IFA will consider a vote for cloture as a vote for the underlying bill and will include it in our list of "Key Votes" for this Congress.**

As the largest and oldest franchising trade group, IFA's mission is to safeguard the business environment for franchising worldwide. The organization represents over 1,200 franchisor, 8,000 franchisee and 400 supplier members nationwide. America's more than 767,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for more than 18 million workers (nearly 14 percent of the nation's private-sector employment) and account for \$1.53 trillion in economic activity (9.5 percent of the private-sector economic output).

The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) is fundamentally incompatible with protecting the principles of a sound democracy. This legislation will circumvent an employee's right to privately decide whether or not to be represented by a union in their workplace. The only way to guarantee worker protection from coercion and intimidation by employers, union officials and other outside interests is through the continued use of a federally supervised private ballot election. For more than 60 years, the federally-supervised private ballot election process has protected workers' rights and this process should not be changed.

Again, I urge you to reject this radical assault on labor law and workers' rights. Taking away this fundamental right serves no benefit to workers. **IFA urges a NO vote on the cloture vote to proceed to the EFCA bill and we will use this vote in our annual "Key Votes" report to our members.**

Sincerely,

David French
Vice President, Government Relations