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Hatch Urges Utahns to Vote for Amendment A on Nov. 2 Utah Workers Must Not be Forced to Unionize, Senator Says

WASHINGTON – Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) today urged Utahns to go to the polls on Election Day and vote for Amendment A, which would require the use of a secret ballot in all elections in the state, including those for union representation.

Hatch said Amendment A would give Utahns an opportunity to speak out against national union efforts to force unionization on American workers by stripping them of their right to secret ballot elections. “For decades,” Hatch said, “labor unions and their Democratic allies in Congress have tried to grease the rails for union elections by eliminating safeguards designed to protect the rights of workers. The most obvious and pernicious of these is the effort to do away with secret ballot elections and allow union organizers to intimidate workers in the workplace or even at home.”

Hatch has long been a leader in the Senate’s efforts to halt the tide of so-called “labor law reform” proposals, including the recent successful effort in the Senate to block the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). State legislators in Utah have joined the senator’s fight at the state level by supporting Amendment A and getting it on the ballot for the November elections.

If the Democrats and the unions had their way, Hatch explained, secret-ballot elections would be replaced by a “card check” system in which union organizers could visit workers on the job or in their homes to collect signatures on union authorization cards. A bare majority of signatures would be sufficient to organize a union.

“At best, this creates a system that will invite uncomfortable exchanges among co-workers,” Hatch said. “At worst, it would subject employees to harassment and coercive intimidation – precisely the situation which the secret ballot elections were designed to prevent.”

Democrats’ efforts to foist the EFCA and other anti-worker and anti-business measures on an unsuspecting public come as union influence in the U.S. workplace is on the decline and polls show fewer Americans than ever want to unionize.

“Unable to make their case to American workers, union leaders have turned to their Democratic allies in Congress to push their agenda,” Hatch said. “That’s why it is so important for Utahns to add their voice to the ever-growing chorus of those who oppose the effort to eliminate the secret ballot in union elections by voting for Amendment A on November 2.”

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