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Organizing: Unionized Performers Release Video In Support of Employee Free Choice Act

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*Organizing*  
**Unionized Performers Release Video  
In Support of Employee Free Choice Act**

The labor movement is using the star power of many unionized performers to support passage of the proposed Employee Free Choice Act (S. 560, H.R. 1409).

Stars from Hollywood and Broadway May 14 released a video in which they endorsed passage of the proposed legislation and asked viewers to urge their members of Congress to support the measure.

The video, which was released on the Internet at a site called "Artists4WorkersChoice," features 47 veteran actors, musicians, Broadway performers, and comedians, many who are winners of Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, and Tonys. All of the stars are union members.

"People associate actors with fame and glory," television star Amy Brenneman said in a statement announcing the release of the video. "The truth is for a long time my union contract was the reason I could support my family. That's why I support the Employee Free Choice Act. Because each worker, regardless of their field, deserves the freedom to bargain for a contract, for a better life."

Comedian Jerry Stiller added, "I've belonged to three unions in my life and every one gave me the freedom to bargain with my coworkers for decent hours, benefits, and safe conditions. If all workers don't have the freedom to form unions, I don't see how we can fix our economy."

EFCA, introduced in the House and Senate March 10, would amend the National Labor Relations Act to, among other things, establish a procedure whereby the National Labor Relations Board would certify a union as the bargaining representative of employees if a majority of employees in the unit signs valid union authorization cards.

The video was developed by a number of entertainment unions that are affiliates of the AFL-CIO including Actors' Equity Association; the American Federation of Musicians; the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; the Directors Guild of America; the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees; the Screen Actors Guild; the Writers Guild of America, East; and the Writers Guild of America, West.

“The members of all of our unions are standing together to support the Employee Free Choice Act because we know that if workers don't have the freedom to bargain, it affects all of us—our livelihoods, our rights as professionals and our strength to create an economy that works for all,” the presidents of the participating unions said in a statement.

Among the other performers appearing in the video are F. Murray Abraham, Polly Adams, David Alan Basche, P.J. Benjamin, Kate Burton, Gabrielle Carteris, James Cromwell, Stephanie D'Abruzzo, John Cunningham, Emilio Delgado, Andre De Shields, Kevin Dobson, Mike Farrell, Sam Freed, Ed Fry, Jason George, Nancy Giles, Elliott Gould, Holter Graham, Valerie Harper, Don Hastings, Gregory Jbara, Anne-Marie Johnson, S. Marc Jordan, Kevin Kilner, Michele Lee, Kate Linder, James Lurie, Richard Masur, Anne Meara, Esai Morales, Robert Newman, Kathleen Noone, Nancy Opel, Robert Pine, Roberta Reardon, Sam Robards, Alan Rosenberg, Ned Schmidtke, Charles Shaughnessy, Chris Shiflett, Kate Shindle, Connie Stevens, Paul F. Tompkins, and Mark Zimmerman.