

## **Be Prepared**

Health care reform is currently the most debated topic among politicians, business leaders, and the overall public, but be prepared because after health care comes the EFCA.

Even though neither the House bill nor Senate bill has moved from the committees since their introduction in March 2009, this troublesome bill is still stirring and creating noise. In early January, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka even stated that he believes the EFCA will pass in the first quarter of 2010. This statement clearly reveals the overall notion that even though union organizers claim to be interested in health care reform, passage of the EFCA is still on their mind. However, we're not entirely sure they expected Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown filling the late Ted Kennedy's seat. This event will definitely impact the EFCA legislation. Recently, [Politico](#) even helped reaffirm the possibility of the EFCA's demise.

Still, make no mistake; even though this bill is said to be prematurely defeated, the overall concept of reforming union laws and operations is still alive and well. Components of this bill could simply be included or amended into other legislation regarding labor relations, labor laws, and even job creation.

Another possibility of achieving change to the National Labor Relations Act is to do it administratively. At this time there are three vacancies on the five member National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). One of the three nominees (who must have their appointments confirmed or denied as a group) has attracted much opposition in the Senate because of his stances on union organizing and labor relations upon which he has written extensively. The major concern is that nominee Craig Becker, Associate General Counsel for the Service Employees International Union will use his position on the NLRB, through administrative changes and case by case decisions, to implement the provisions of EFCA without any legislation ever being passed. For a more thorough explanation of the issue [click here](#) to read a memo on the topic.

We urge you to stay interested and involved in this issue. This fight for securing American jobs is far from over and with the current state of the U.S. economy; this is the last thing we need.

Sincerely,  
Dave MacIver