

## Unions Lead to Stronger Economy

A new report for the Center for American Progress Action Fund shows that a more unionized workforce would strengthen the U.S. economy. The report argues that the best path to a sustainable economy is through increasing Americans' purchasing power—and that happens when workers enjoy the kind of increased benefits and wages that a union job brings.

Researchers pointed out that the Employee Free Choice Act could boost unionization and potentially improve millions of Americans' economic standing and workplace conditions—achieving a real increase in purchasing power in union households.

The report found that if the number of union workers increased by just 5%, an estimated \$25.5 billion more in wages and salaries would be introduced into the American economy each year.

The report also notes that increasing the percentage of unionized workers also benefits the non-unionized.

“Non-union workers, particularly in highly unionized industries,” the report says, “receive financial benefits from employers who increase wages to match what unions would win.”

“Passing the Employee Free Choice Act and making it harder for management to threaten workers seeking to unionize would be good for American workers,” the report concludes. “It would help boost workers’ wages and benefits. And putting more money in workers’ pockets would provide a needed boost for the U.S. economy. Increasing unionization is a good way to get out of our current economic troubles.”

To download the full report and fact sheets for individual states, go to:  
[http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2009/02/e/fca\\_factsheets.html/](http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2009/02/e/fca_factsheets.html/)

## Solis Confirmed as Labor Secretary



**Hilda Solis was confirmed by an overwhelming majority as Secretary of Labor today by the Senate. Solis will be a strong advocate for America’s workers, and a major force in addressing our jobs crisis and strengthening the economy.**

## Tens of Thousands of Americans Losing Health Care Every Day

According to a report released by Health Care for America Now and the Center for American Progress, 14,000 Americans are losing health insurance every day during this economic crisis.

The report says that since the recession began, an estimated six million additional Americans have lost their health insurance or become uninsured. Judy Feder, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, said that while 47 million people did not have health insurance before the recession, the number has now grown because of the economic downturn.

To get your local involved in helping to solve America’s health care crisis, go to: [www.ufcwhealthcarenow.org](http://www.ufcwhealthcarenow.org).

## New Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds on Employee Free Choice Available

At [www.ufcwforfreechoice.org](http://www.ufcwforfreechoice.org), UFCW staff can find many of the materials needed to help inform members and the public about the Employee Free Choice Act. Many locals, both members and staff, have used these sample materials to write op-eds and letters to the editor of their local paper.

Now you can find an updated package of sample letters and op-eds—including samples which mention North Carolina and the Smithfield Tar Heel election. You can



also find a host of other materials, including facts and reports on Employee Free Choice, ways to contact your members of Congress, print ads, and lists of Employee Free Choice Act supporters.

## UFCW Members Locked Out

UFCW Local 86D, a federal mediator, and Grain Processing Corporation (GPC) met Monday to discuss the lock-out situation there. About 360 workers have been locked out of GPC since August 2008.

Find out more and show your support for the locked-out workers at their new website: [www.muscatinefirst.org](http://www.muscatinefirst.org).

## UFCW Scholarship Now Available

Each year the UFCW International awards several scholarships of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents. This year's scholarship application is now available. For deadline information and further details, go to:

<http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/>

## America Needs Unions: Cast Your Ballot!



An ongoing poll on PARADE Magazine's Intelligence Report website currently shows that about 90 percent of responding Americans think we still need unions. The accompanying article asked the question of PARADE readers on Sunday, and discusses labor unions in light of the upcoming Employee Free Choice Act battle in Congress.

In the article, Professor Clete Daniels of Cornell University explains how a more unionized workforce benefits union and non-union workers alike. He notes that the gap between the country's rich and poor is the largest it's been since 1928, and that unions are responsible for by securing benefits like unemployment insurance, Social Security, and the 40-hour workweek.

The wide majority of union support clearly shows that most Americans recognize that in today's tough economic climate, workers need a union more than ever to protect wages and benefits and expand our middle class.

PARADE calls itself America's most widely-read magazine, reaching more than 70 million readers.

**Please help us make sure that the UFCW's voice is heard in this poll! Vote "Yes!" in Parade's poll at: [www.parade.com/intel](http://www.parade.com/intel).**