



For Immediate Release

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Workers Launched Statewide 24 hr Vigils to Urge Senator Feinstein to support a workers' freedom to join a union through the Employee Free Choice Act

Feinstein remains lone member of the CA Congressional Delegation not supporting the legislation which would help American workers move out of poverty

(Los Angeles) –Today, Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary– Treasurer of the CA Labor Federation, several workers and community leaders, launched a 24 hour vigil at the Federal Building in Downtown Los Angeles. The vigil is being organized to draw attention to the need for Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act – federal legislation that would aid in the economic recovery of our nation by allowing workers to earn better wages, health care and retirement benefits by signing a card to join a union. Vigils are also being held at Federal Buildings in San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento and Fresno.

“Our country is facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and without a doubt this recovery is going to take time,” said Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. “However, we also strongly believe that the Employee Free Choice Act is an important component in helping get our country back on track by opening the door for workers to make good middle class wages, but we need Senator Feinstein to help make this happen.”

The vigils were planned in response to the rising heat of the corporate campaign to stop Employee Free Choice, which includes a campaign costing hundreds of millions of dollars funded by corporations such as Wal-Mart.

The Los Angeles vigil will also hold events focusing on youth and the future, a media availability with workers who would benefit from the legislation, and a closing ceremony in which workers, religious and community leaders will pray for Senator Dianne Feinstein to support the Employee Free Choice Act. The Senator is the one remaining member of the California Congressional delegation who has yet to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

Workers and allies will be at the site for a full 24 hours.

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REMAINING EVENTS

- May 6, 5 p.m.: Youth and the Future
- May 7, 5-7am: Availability, workers with stories illustrating the need for reform
- May 7, 11:30 am: Closing ceremony

Where

Downtown L.A. Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA

*The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO is the chartered Central Labor Council (CLC) of the AFL-CIO in Los Angeles County and is the second largest in the country, representing over 800,000 workers through over 350 unions. Its mission is to promote a voice for workers so they can remain in the middle class, move themselves out of poverty by joining a union, encourage active participation in the political process by electing pro-union and pro-worker officials and to advance public policies that support workers and their families. As the coordinating center for labor's political activity, the Federation believes that in educating and mobilizing workers to be politically active they can create and sustain healthy communities, and **FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS** that **REBUILD THE LOS ANGELES MIDDLE CLASS**. Visit the Federation at www.launionaflcio.org.*

With 2 million members nationwide, SEIU represents over 700,000 workers throughout California in all of its diversity. SEIU members in California are social workers, nurses, classroom aides, security officers, college professors, homecare workers, janitors, and more.

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