

# American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Principal Officers of AFL-CIO State Federations  
Principal Officer of Area and Central Labor Councils

**FROM:** John J. Sweeney, President

**DATE:** March 20, 2009

**RE:** **Turn Around America – Urgent Action Needed**

Our top federal legislative priorities – fixing our broken labor laws and America's failing health care system -- are moving swiftly on Capitol Hill, and we need you to take urgent action in the next few weeks. It looks increasingly likely that a vote on the Employee Free Choice Act may take place prior to the Memorial Day recess. And a crucial first hurdle for real health care reform may occur as early as week after next.

There are of course specific activities going on in states with swing Senate votes. We need everybody to take these three immediate actions:

- **Through the State Federations, please set meetings with your Members of Congress during the upcoming April recess April 5-19. We need to thank all members of Congress who have co-sponsored the Employee Free Choice Act and encourage others to support the bill when it is taken up in the House and Senate this Spring.** These meetings back home in your states are crucial as they may be the final opportunity to make our case directly on our bill in their home districts prior to a vote. Numerous corporate groups will likely be meeting with them to try to derail our best chance for real labor law reform in the past 70 years. It is crucial that we reach out to every House member who has supported us to thank them and to let them know we will stand with them.

- **Contact your Members of Congress now and let them know America's unions support President Obama's proposed federal budget.** The proposal includes a substantial \$634 billion down payment dedicated to health care reform over the next 10 years. The GOP, corporate lobbyists, the right wing and private health insurers see this vote as an opportunity to kill reform before it begins. The budget also includes investments in other areas critical to improving the lives of working families.
- **Contribute now to the Turn Around America Media Fund.** The response from state and local union movements to Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker's urgent appeal for funds has been tremendous -- and it is still growing. But our opponents will expand their media purchases in the next weeks in an attempt to strip away our congressional supporters. The funds you are contributing are critical to help us stay on the air, online and in print to fight the distortions about the Employee Free Choice Act. Many state federations and central labor councils have already stepped up and have contributed as much as the equivalent of ten cents per member. The list of pledges and contributions received already is attached. If your federation has not already contributed, we ask you to do so now, and I thank you in advance for your help.

**Please join me for a conference call to discuss these important matters on:**

**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM EDT**

**Call-in Number: 866-285-7778 code: 8545681**

The next sixty days may well be a time we can look back upon and say we took major steps in putting our nation on the track to economic justice and prosperity. Thank you for your leadership for working families.

JJS/fmt:opeiu#2

cc: Regional Directors

Attachments:

- TPs on EFCA thank you and need for budget vote
- EFCA Co-Sponsor list
- Recess meeting report back form
- TAA S&L media fund list and donation form