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Mr. Robert J Silverman  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
American Embassy  
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31  
  
115 89 Stockholm

## **Letter in support of the proposed Employee Free Choice Act**

Dear Mr Silver,

I write on behalf of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation, LO-Sweden, which represents 1,6 million workers in both private and public sector throughout Sweden. LO-Sweden is a member of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) with more than 170 million members in the world.

It is LO-Sweden's as well as ITUC's view, that the world's wealthiest democracy should join other democracies around the world in respecting the most fundamental of workers' rights. The right to form and join trade unions and to bargain collectively for wages and working conditions is the basis of any fair and just system of labour relations.

At the time of the New Deal in the 1930s, the U.S. government acknowledged the value of collective bargaining and its contribution to a healthy economy and society through increasing incomes and buying power. Extensive collective bargaining coverage is directly related to wealth equality, the provision of social benefits such as affordable health care and pensions, and leave entitlements. In the decades since the New Deal, collective bargaining coverage in the U.S. has declined to around 8% in the

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private sector, and with it, living standards. More than 70 countries throughout the world from Argentina to Uruguay allow workers to gain union rights and collective bargaining through a fair process without employer interference but the U.S. is not one of them.

Fifty percent of non-union workers in the U.S. say they want collective bargaining and that they view employer intimidation as a “major reason” preventing them from obtaining it. Thousands of workers in the U.S. are fired by their employers every year for trying to exercise their rights. The Employee Free Choice Act would ensure that workers can make a freely and fairly informed decision about union representation and collective bargaining, as is their right under international law.

LO-Sweden want you to let the U.S. government know that unions around the world are united to support and enable American workers to exercise their rights and to have a genuine voice at work, through the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

On behalf of the Executive Board of LO-Sweden/  
Yours sincerely,

Wanja Lundby-Wedin  
President of LO-Sweden and the European Trade Union Confederation  
(ETUC)