



Illinois Chapter

# MERIT UPDATE

MAY 18, 2009

## DOL 2010 BUDGET WILL INCREASE ENFORCEMENT AND LOWER UNION OVERSIGHT

ON MAY 7TH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUESTED A BUDGET OF \$104.5 BILLION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 THAT INCLUDED INCREASES IN OVERSIGHT OF WAGE AND HOUR AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LAWS AND DECREASES FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS WHICH OVERSEES UNION FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES.

UNDER THE FY 2010 BUDGET, OLMS WOULD RECEIVE ONLY \$40.5 MILLION – A \$4.4 MILLION REDUCTION FROM THE 2009 BUDGET. ABC OPPOSED THE CUT THAT WOULD RETURN OLMS' BUDGET TO 2003 LEVELS DESPITE AN INCREASE IN BOTH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND STAFF TIME REQUIRED TO REVIEW AND ENFORCE THE LAW. OLMS IS THE ONLY OFFICE IN THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IS ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THE TRANSPARENCY OF UNION FINANCIAL ACTIVITY AND INTERNAL UNION ELECTIONS.

IN ADDITION, THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) WOULD RECEIVE \$564 MILLION IN THE FY 2010 BUDGET, WHICH IS A 10 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION WOULD RECEIVE \$228 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$35 MILLION FROM 2009. BOTH BUDGET INCREASES INCLUDE MONEY TO HIRE A TOTAL OF 360 NEW INVESTIGATORS.

THE BUDGET ALSO REQUESTED \$500 MILLION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS AND \$50 MILLION FOR GREEN JOBS TRAINING. THE "AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT OF 2009" WOULD CONTRIBUTE \$38 BILLION AND WOULD HELP FUND GREEN JOBS TRAINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

SOURCE: ABC NEWSLINE

## DESPITE OBAMA'S PLEA, NO COMPROMISE ON CARD-CHECK LEGISLATION

THE CONTROVERSIAL CARD-CHECK BILL, A SOUGHT-AFTER BOON TO LABOR UNIONS, IS STUCK IN CONGRESS, AND ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT OBAMA IS PUSHING FOR A COMPROMISE, BOTH SIDES SEEM DEAD-SET AGAINST ONE.

IN AN APPEARANCE LAST THURSDAY IN RIO RANCHO, N.M., OBAMA ADMITTED THAT CARD CHECK -- THE SO-CALLED EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT -- IS STALLED, AND HE TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMPROMISE.

"I THINK THAT THERE MAY BE AREAS OF COMPROMISE TO GET THIS BILL DONE," OBAMA SAID. "I'M SUPPORTIVE OF IT. BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH VOTES RIGHT NOW IN THE SENATE TO GET IT PASSED. AND WHAT I THINK WE HAVE TO DO IS TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH THE CORE IDEA OF THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT IS PRESERVED, WHICH IS, HOW DO WE MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO FORM A UNION TO AT LEAST GET A VOTE AND HAVE AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD? HOW DO WE DO THAT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME GET ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS THE BILL?"

"THAT'S WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW. I THINK IT'S GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE AT PASSAGE BUT THERE'S STILL MORE WORK TO BE DONE."

THE UNIONS BEHIND THE CONTROVERSIAL BILL SAY NO COMPROMISE IS ACCEPTABLE UNLESS IT CONTAINS ALL THE "CORE PRINCIPLES" OR PROVISIONS OF THE ORIGINAL -- AND THOSE OPPOSED TO THE LEGISLATION SAY NO BILL THAT CONTAINS ANY OF THOSE PROVISIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

UNDER CARD-CHECK, WORKERS COULD FORM UNIONS AT WORKSITES IF OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS SIGN UNION CARDS -- BYPASSING THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT OF A SECRET BALLOT. IT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE MANDATORY BINDING ARBITRATION IF A UNION LOCAL AND AN EMPLOYER FAIL TO AGREE ON A FIRST CONTRACT WITHIN 90 DAYS.

JOSH GOLDSTEIN, SPOKESMAN FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS AT WORK, A UNION-SPONSORED THINK-TANK THAT IS SPEARHEADING THE EFFORT TO ENACT CARD-CHECK THROUGH A \$10 MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN -- INCLUDING TELEVISION ADS -- APPLAUDS THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS ENDORSEMENT.

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### ELK GROVE VILLAGE OFFICE

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ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL  
60007  
847-709-2960  
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### SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

526 E. ALLEN  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
217-523-4692  
217-523-4752 FAX

"WHAT WE CAN'T COMPROMISE ON ARE THE FUNDAMENTALS WHICH THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT ARE BUILT UPON," GOLDSTEIN TOLD CNSNEWS.COM, "AND THAT'S CREATING A FAIR AND DIRECT PATH FOR WORKERS TO FORM UNIONS, HAVING REAL PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYERS WHO VIOLATE THE LAW AND HELPING WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS GET TO A FIRST CONTRACT IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME."

GOLDSTEIN SAID THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED THE FACT THAT A COMPROMISE COULD NOT BREACH THE "CORE PRINCIPLES" COULD NOT IN HIS COMMENTS.

"BUT WHATEVER PROPOSAL ACTUALLY DOES COME OUT IT MUST REMAIN TRUE TO THOSE THREE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, AND WHATEVER PIECE OF LEGISLATION, THAT IS HOW IT WILL BE JUDGED," HE ADDED. BUT BREWSTER BEVIS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AT ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, SAID OPPONENTS OF THE BILL SEE NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE.

"THIS BILL IS A JOB KILLER AND THIS BILL IS BAD, AND THERE IS NO WAY OUT THERE TO MAKE THIS BILL MORE PALATABLE FOR ABC'S MEMBERS," BEVIS TOLD CNSNEWS.COM. "WE RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO THE HILL FROM 3,000 OF OUR MEMBERS SAYING THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPROMISE ON THIS BILL."

THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTS THOUSANDS OF CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AND CONTRACTORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

"OBVIOUSLY, ADVOCATES OF EFCA REALIZE THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING A SHELLAC-ING ON THIS BILL, AND REALIZE THAT SOME OF THEIR PAST SUPPORTERS HAVE DEFECTED TO THE CAMP OF 'THIS IS BAD FOR THE ECONOMY, THIS ISN'T WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW.' AND THEY ARE LOOKING TO BROKER SOME KIND OF DEAL IN ORDER TO GET THOSE FOLKS BACK IN THEIR CAMP."

THE BILL'S PRINCIPAL CO-SPONSOR, SEN. TOM HARKIN (D-IOWA), IS REPORTEDLY WORKING ON A COMPROMISE BILL. "I THINK WHAT IT SPEAKS TO IS THAT LEADERS IN CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTAND THAT OUR LABOR LAWS ARE SEVERELY BROKEN AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR WORKERS TO ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE ABILITY TO BARGAIN AND NOT BORROW THEIR WAY BACK INTO THE MIDDLE CLASS."

"I AM SURE THERE ARE SEVERAL PEOPLE OUT THERE WORKING ON COMPROMISE BILLS," BEVIS SAID. "BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN THAT BILL THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO MY MEMBERS. BINDING ARBITRATION WOULD BE AS OBJECTIONABLE AS THE LOSS OF THE SECRET BALLOT." UNIONS HAVE MADE THE CARD-CHECK BILL THE CENTERPIECE OF THEIR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

By: By Pete Winn, Senior Writer/Editor

[www.csnnews.com](http://www.csnnews.com)

### SAFETY TIP: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

**KNOW THE PURPOSE OF EACH TOOL IN YOUR TOOLBOX, AND USE EACH FOR THE TASK IT WAS DESIGNED TO DO. KEEP CUTTING EDGES SHARP. BEFORE YOU LIFT ANYTHING THINK ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF THE LOAD. TOO HEAVY? GET HELP, NOT HURT! WHEN YOU DO LIFT, BEND YOUR KNEES, HOLD THE LOAD CLOSE TO YOUR BODY AND USE YOUR LEGS TO LIFT. BE ALERT TO EYE HAZARDS AT YOUR WORK SITE. WEAR APPROPRIATE EYE PROTECTION. ON AND OFF THE JOB, PROTECT YOUR HEARING BY WEARING THE PROPER PROTECTION.**

**WHEN WORKING ON STRAIGHT LADDERS, USE THE FOUR-TO-ONE RULE: POSITION THE LADDER BASE ONE FOOT AWAY FROM THE WALL FOR EVERY FOUR FEET OF LADDER HEIGHT. NEVER USE THE TOP TWO LADDER RUNGS. ALWAYS OBSERVE NO SMOKING SIGNS -- THEY ARE THERE FOR YOUR PROTECTION.**

**LOCKOUT/TAGOUT ENSURES THAT POWER SOURCES HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY TURNED OFF. YOU AND ONLY YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING YOUR TAG AND LOCK WHEN THE JOB OR REPAIR IS COMPLETED. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT, IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE. GOOD HOUSE-KEEPING IS A MUST. CLEAN UP DAILY AT THE END OF YOUR SHIFT. PLUG POWER TOOLS INTO GROUNDED OUTLETS THAT HAVE GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS. BE SURE THAT ALL ELECTRICAL TOOLS AND EXTENSION CORDS ARE INSPECTED AND COLOR CODED QUARTERLY. BEFORE PLUGGING OR UNPLUGGING TOOLS MAKE SURE THE SWITCH IS IN THE OFF POSITION. WATCH OUT FOR PINCH POINTS! DO NOT REMOVE GUARDS OR BARRIERS.**

**ALWAYS WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. DAMAGED OR WORN GEAR SHOULD BE REPLACED AT ONCE. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW SUFFERS FROM HEAT EXHAUSTION OR CRAMPS OR HEAT STROKE, GET MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY. NO HORSEPLAY ON THE JOB -- IT'S ONE OF THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS. ALWAYS READ A MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET BEFORE YOU BEGIN A JOB USING A CHEMICAL. POST EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS NEAR EACH JOB PHONE. EVERY SECOND COUNTS IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR OTHER EMERGENCY. DON'T TAKE CHANCES! WHEN IN DOUBT ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR.**

Source: [www.toolboxtalks.com](http://www.toolboxtalks.com)

## Thriving in a Challenging Economy Workshop

Tuesday, May 19th at the ABCIL Office!

The workshop will present methods and case study that will:

Identify leading 'profit leaks' in your company

Show how you can empower your employees to solve these problems

Implement methodologies to insure ongoing management of these solutions.

(Check out the upcoming events on page 3 for more details! )

## DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

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### ABCIL'S ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING



#### COST:

- ⇒ INDIVIDUAL GOLF & DINNER \$165
- ⇒ FOURSOME GOLF & DINNER \$600,
- ⇒ DINNER ONLY \$40

#### COST INCLUDES:

- ⇒ GREEN FEES
- ⇒ LUNCH
- ⇒ ALL BEVERAGES AND ITEMS FROM THE BEVERAGE CART/KEG HOLE
- ⇒ DINNER BUFFET
- ⇒ ONE HOUR OPEN BAR AT DINNER
- ⇒ DOOR PRIZES

#### AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS:

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
\$2,000

GOLF THEMED DINNER  
FAVOR SPONSOR: \$2,000

DINNER SPONSOR \$1,000

BEVERAGE CART  
SPONSOR: \$600 EACH (2  
AVAILABLE)

DOOR PRIZE SPONSOR \$500  
EACH (4 AVAILABLE)

HOLE SPONSOR \$ 250  
(18 AVAILABLE)

KEG HOLE SPONSOR \$200

CONTEST HOLE SPONSOR  
\$100 PLUS GIFT FOR  
CONTEST WINNER

GOODIE BAG  
SPONSOR PRODUCT ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO REGISTER/SPONSOR  
PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT  
LISA@ABCIL.ORG

### MAY 19, 2009

#### THRIVING IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMY WORKSHOP

ESPECIALLY IN TODAY'S ECONOMY – MANY IN OUR INDUSTRY ARE FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES INCLUDING TIGHT CASH FLOW, VOLATILE MATERIAL COSTS, AND REDUCED DEMAND. NOW IS THE TIME TO TIGHTEN / INSTALL OPERATIONAL METHODOLOGY TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF YOUR COMPANY. THAT IS WHY WE ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE COSI INSTITUTE TO PRESENT THIS TIMELY WORKSHOP. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE ABCIL OFFICE, 1541 ELMHURST RD. ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007 FROM 6:00-8:00 PM. THE COST IS \$99.00 FOR FOUR TICKETS! ALSO, ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE 3 POST EVENT PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION TEAM COACHING SESSIONS FROM COSI FOR FREE!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GREG HUEBNER AT 312-850-4380 OR BY EMAIL AT: GREG@CYCLOFSUCCESS.NET

### MAY 20, 2009

#### ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR NEWLY PROMOTED AND FRONT LINE SUPERVISORS

THIS ONE DAY SEMINAR WILL PREPARE YOUR SUPERVISORS FOR A COMPLETE CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND OFFER A PLAN FOR THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. THEY WILL COME AWAY WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE BOSS, PEERS, STAFF, AND COMPANY EXPECTS OF THEM. THE INVALUABLE TOOLS IN THIS PROGRAM WILL PREPARE SUPERVISORS FOR THEIR IMPORTANT NEW ROLE PROVIDING GREATER CONFIDENCE AND SUCCESS. THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY O'HARE CAMPUS, 3166 S. RIVER ROAD, DES PLAINES, IL. 60018

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DEAN CARROLL AT [DCARROLL@C-KG.COM](mailto:DCARROLL@C-KG.COM)

### JUNE 18, 2009

#### 2009 GRADUATION

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR 2009 GRADUATES AT BELVEDERE BANQUETS, 1170 W. DEVON . ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007. THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 7:00PM. COST: TBD

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT DIANA AT [DIANA@ABCIL.ORG](mailto:DIANA@ABCIL.ORG)

### JULY 30, 2009

#### ABCIL ANNUAL CHICAGOLAND GOLF OUTING

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT PHEASANT RUN RESORT, 4051 EAST MAIN ST. SAINT. CHARLES, IL 60174. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 11:45 AM, LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY A 1:00 PM SHOTGUN START. DINNER WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM. (PLEASE SEE THE COST LIST IN THE LEFT MARGIN)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT [LISA@ABCIL.ORG](mailto:LISA@ABCIL.ORG)