



News Release

ABC WELCOMES SUPREME COURT RULING TO HELP EDUCATE EMPLOYEES ON UNION ORGANIZING

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) today welcomed a U.S. Supreme Court ruling to allow employees in California to be informed by their employers about union organizing efforts. In the case, *U.S. Chamber of Commerce v. Brown*, the court decided 7-2 to strike down a California law that prohibited the use of state money by employers to educate their employees about unions in the workplace. ABC led a coalition of business groups that filed a "friend of the court" brief, including the ABC of California chapter, in opposition to the California law.

“Today’s ruling clearly signals that employers have an equal opportunity to educate their employees on the impact of joining a labor union.” said ABC President and CEO Kirk Pickerel. “In addition, it sets important limits on the ability of unions to manipulate state governments into interfering with the rights of private employers and their employees.”

In the ruling, the Supreme Court reversed an earlier decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and found that the California law violated the "free speech" provision of Section 8(c) of the National Labor Relations Act. Further, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that Congress "intended to encourage free debate on issues dividing labor and management" and that states are preempted from interfering with employers' protected rights to speak to their own employees on the subject of unionization.

The California law imposed accounting procedures and penalties on employers who spoke out in opposition to unionization of their employees. The law also allowed unions to sue such employers to enforce the law's forced neutrality provisions.

To read today’s decision, *U.S. Chamber of Commerce v. Brown*, go here:
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/06-939.pdf>

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