



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

815 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

202-637-5000

afcio.org

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April 4, 2018

Senador Ernesto Cordero Arroyo
Honorable Senator Ernesto Cordero Arroyo
President of Senate Governing Board of the Mexican Republic
Av. Paseo de la Reforma 135,
Hemiciclo Piso 06 Oficina 06,
Col. Tabacalera,
Del. Cuauhtémoc, Cd. de México,
C.P. 06030

Email: ernesto.cordero@pan.senado.gob.mx

Dear Senator Cordero:

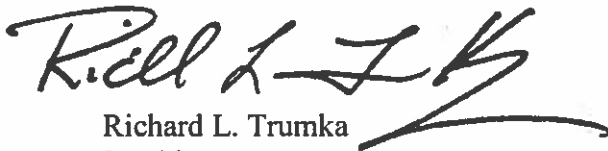
On behalf of the 12.5 million working families of the AFL-CIO, I write to express my serious concerns about the bill introduced in the Mexican Senate on March 22 that would undermine the 2017 constitutional reforms and prevent Mexican workers from exercising their fundamental rights. The bill does not comply with existing commitments under the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation and risks undermining the ongoing negotiation of a new North American trade deal. I urge you to ensure that this harmful bill does not pass, and that any future legislation enacting the Constitutional reforms is consistent with international labor standards and developed in consultation with independent unions.

The bill that some are currently attempting to rush through the legislative process undermines the important protections in Mexico's own constitution, and violates Mexico's commitments as a member of the International Labor Organization. The shameful practice of legitimizing protection unions keeps far too many Mexican workers in dire poverty. The bill establishes egregious barriers to prevent workers from organizing democratic, independent unions and negotiating fair wages and adequate living conditions. It undermines the constitutional commitment to a free and secret vote to approve collective bargaining agreements and removes transparency requirements that would allow workers to access information about the organizations that purport to represent them. It maintains the grip employers and protection unions currently have on the labor justice system and undermines the rule of law.

Letter to Senador Ernesto Cordero Arroyo
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I urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to end efforts to advance this harmful legislation, and to work with a broad range of independent unions, workers, experts and other stakeholders in Mexico to craft implementing legislation that allows Mexican workers to fully and freely exercise their right to form and join unions and negotiate for better wages and working conditions. Workers in the United States stand united with our brothers and sisters in Mexico fighting for fair wages and respect on the job, and we urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Trumka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/CF/lkr