

## Solis Deflects Questions On Card-Check, Right-to-Work

By Eric Miller  
Staff Reporter

Secretary of Labor-designate Rep. Hilda Solis (D-Calif.), said it is "premature" for her to offer opinions on issues including right-to-work laws and so-called "card-check" legislation.

Appearing Jan. 9 at a confirmation hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Solis acknowledged she was a co-sponsor in the House of the Employee Free Choice Act — known as "card check" — and was aware that President-elect Obama supported the measure.

However, to response to questions by Republicans on the committee, Solis said she would have to study the issue further and respond in writing.

If passed, the card-check legislation would replace secret-ballot elections supervised by the National Labor Relations Board with counting employees' signed check-off cards to determine whether employees favor union representation.

American Trucking Associations and other business groups oppose the measure because they have said the legislation would make it easier for unions to organize workers.

All committee members present at the hearing said they supported Solis' nomination to run the department, which has a \$70 billion budget and 17,000 employees. But several Republicans quizzed her on her opinions related to union activities and employee rights issues.

Solis, whose father was a



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Solis

Teamsters union shop steward, said that she "could not give a complete answer" to a question by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) whether she supports extending flex time and compensatory time rights of federal workers to the private sector.

Asked by Enzi if she supports the right of both union and non-union companies to bid on federal contracts, Solis responded that she was "not able to speak on that matter."

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) asked Solis if she supports right-to-work laws now in effect in 22 states.

"I'm not qualified to address that question at this time," Solis responded.

Despite these questions, several members of the committee praised Solis as "a woman of great integrity" and "a voice for working families."

The committee did not say when it planned a formal vote on her nomination, nor has it announced when the full Senate will take a confirmation vote on her nomination.