



Why Doesn't NFIB Take a Position on This Issue?

Knowing of what we speak on issues that matter most to our members has made us the only voice of small business that policymakers respect.

On occasion, the public, media, and even our own members will ask what NFIB's stand is on an issue. Sometimes, the answer is "We don't have one and will not take one."

The reason is: We take stands only on issues that directly affect our members' rights to own, operate, and grow their businesses. If anyone wants to know what they are, NFIB publishes and updates every four years its *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, listing all 75 of the issues. (www.nfib.com/problemsandpriorities)

By knowing of what we speak -- and by not speaking on everything -- state and federal policymakers consider us the true voice of small business. For that reason, we take no stands on almost all social, educational, law enforcement, and foreign policy issues—unless a rare one happens to directly impact small business.

Our issues are solely those dealing with the establishment, operation, expansion, and job-hiring needs of Main Street, mom-and-pop enterprises. And who are the "we" referred to above? We are our members, who, through yearly state and federal balloting, tell us what is foremost on their minds and give us our lobbying direction. This is the way it has been for 77 years, and always will be.

Similarly ...

NFIB is sometimes asked why it doesn't join a specific industry in supporting a bill that industry wants passed or defeated. NFIB members come from many, many occupations, not just one or a few. To maintain our integrity with lawmakers who know us to be the true voice of small business, we are happy to join with other industries on issues that are common to all industries and occupations (taxes, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, etc.). That way, when legislators see NFIB as part of a coalition, it tells them that the issue under consideration impacts all businesses. And when they don't see our name, the bill in question affects just one or a handful of businesses.