

H.R. 739: Domestic violence system out of control...

SAFE Act could bankrupt companies and hobble economic recovery

Entitlement free-for-all at employer expense

Representatives Ted Poe (R-TX) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) have recently introduced H.R. 739, the SAFE (Security and Financial Empowerment) Act. If the bill becomes law, any person experiencing “substantial emotional distress” would be entitled to four benefits:

1. Lifetime employment
2. Health insurance
3. Emergency leave
4. Unemployment compensation

This is what Section 303 of the bill says: “*An employer shall not fail to hire, refuse to hire, discharge, or harass*” a person who claims to be a victim of partner abuse.

Open-Ended Entitlements

The bill contains no requirement for means testing and no set time limits. Indeed, there is no requirement for hard proof of abuse. A sworn statement or restraining order is enough. As the former president of the Massachusetts Women's Bar has noted, "restraining orders are granted to virtually all who apply."

Far-Reaching Impacts

Because the entitlements are open-ended and require no verification, the law would have far-reaching effects:

1. Employers would be forced to hire millions of unemployed persons who merely claim to be a victim of domestic violence, *at an estimated employer cost of \$28.8 billion annually.*
2. The bill would make it harder for employers to terminate workers, whether with or without cause. Any employee at risk of being laid-off could simply scream “Abuse!”
3. Eventually employers will become reluctant to hire new employees and will be less adept at

responding to marketplace opportunities, leaving companies in a European-style stagnation.

Citizens Can Stop this Bill

This bill needs to be taken seriously, no matter how crazy it may sound. If we act now, we can stop this nonsense:

1. Today, telephone Rep. Poe at 202-225-6565. Tell him American companies don't want the SAFE Act. Tell him to remove his name from H.R. 739.
2. Print your name, city, and state below and then fax this sheet to Rep. Poe's office at 202-225-5547.

Congressman Ted Poe:

Please remove your name from H.R. 739. THIS IS NOT THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE THAT EMPLOYERS NEED OR WANT.

Name: _____

City, State: _____

For more information on the SAFE Act, see:

www.mediaradar.org/docs/RADARanalysis-HR739-SAFE-Act.pdf

The logo for RADAR, featuring three vertical bars of varying heights to the left of the word "RADAR" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting

A coalition of 80 organizations around the country has come together to educate the public how domestic violence programs are ineffective and have gone out of control:
www.mediaradar.org/docs/VAWA-Resolution.pdf

For more information, contact:

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