

Senator Toni Harp,
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford CT

As a widow now dependent solely on my income I have struggled to make ends meet. I was forced to sell the custom home that we had recently finished because I could no longer afford to keep it. The downturn in the economy and housing market meant that I received much less for my home than it was worth and much less than we had invested in it. My son who carries the burden of student loans was unemployed for 7 months. His new job barely pays his basic bill, he may be moving back in with me. I provide this background to emphasize that the ills of this country did not happen by some unknown event.

The fact that gaps exist in current legislation that allows for employers to intimidate, threaten and harass workers so that the workers do not make use of benefits is wrong. This is done systematically so that the employer can avoid providing and the benefits agreed upon at the time of hire or those benefits mandated by statutes, this is an outrage. Our statutes are filled with gaps like this. This gap is just another example of the corporate greed that exists today and a desire to avoid having to provide those benefits already in place for the workers.

Soon before members of the Connecticut General Assembly HB 6406 AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS will be presented. This bill is written to prohibit employers from taking retaliatory action against an employee attempting to use his or her entitlements or benefits, and to require employers to notify employees, at the time of hiring, of the entitlements and benefits they may use and the penalty for an employer who fails to let him or her use them. The opportunity is here today to close this gap and protect workers. No worker should have to worry about being targeted and intimidated when the need arises to use the benefits that they have earned or been given. This bill makes real sense and presents no costs to an employer unless they engage in the practice of intimidating workers.

Please sign up as a co sponsor for HB 6406 AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS and I beg you to vote yes for HB 6406.

Sincerely,



Jeanine Schmidt
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