

Our economy isn't working for too many people, and it is even more difficult for women.

I support HB 6932 and HB 6784 because they allow workers to balance caring for their families and their jobs.

I had a job with full benefits including paid sick and vacation time. 2012 was a bad year where my daughter was sick, I was sick, and my father broke his ankle while visiting. I provided all the care with no help from my current husband (not surprisingly we're getting divorced) or my previous husband and I got laid off after 27 years with the company. Management expected senior level people to never take any time off. One manager was quoted as saying "there is no work/life balance for senior level employees." Salaried employees were expected to work a minimum of 50 hours weekly before management would even consider adding resources when deadlines still couldn't be met. Certain key employees were constantly pressured to postpone vacation plans, work weekends, work during their vacations if they actually went on a trip, work holidays, and be on call 24/7. If this happens to highly paid skilled professionals who have a better chance of finding employment elsewhere, I can only imagine how much tougher other people have it.

If you want to create jobs, set a maximum 40 hour work week. Then companies would be forced to hire more people to get work done instead of exploiting their employees. It would also give people an opportunity to take a second job if the first doesn't pay enough. Laws that protect the work force from abuse are desperately needed right now. Having more people employed will improve the economy as more people can afford to participate in the marketplace.

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