

Hello -

I became aware of this proposal today and respectfully want to voice my opinion that this bill **not** become law. Not only as an independent contractor, but also representing many of my clients that would be negatively impacted by such a departure from federal law.

First, I find the question "Is the worker's service outside the usual course of business?" very vague. It could be interpreted many different ways, thus leading to confusion and potential misclassifications related to payroll and may bring potential lawsuits.

Secondly, departing from the federal guidelines would add to the confusion and frustration for employers having to follow different sets of rules. Most small businesses already have a difficult time keeping up with the ever changing landscape of employment laws, their timing and costs. This leaves less and less time to actually run and grow their businesses.

This proposed bill limits potential for many existing independent (read-small business) contractors and discourages entrepreneurship. It would result in higher business costs and taxes. Less flexibility for self-employed individuals and potentially a loss of jobs. In the case of the accounting services I provide, many of my clients cannot afford to hire an employee. Having me provide the accounting services allows them to know there is an outside review of the finances regularly and has sometimes resulted in an early discovery of theft that might not have been discovered until they saw their accountant annually.

Please vote NO on HB 2498. Help me continue to provide a needed service to my clients and continue my business of 23 years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cathy Worthington

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