

## A new type and growing discrimination now faces job-seekers

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BATON ROUGE, La. (KNOE 8 News) - We may be in a "post-recession" economy, but that's little consolation for the unemployed. And now, there's a new and growing employment discrimination out there.

In recent months this new trend has become a giant hurdle for unemployed job seekers: "Employment Discrimination".

According to a new report from National Employment Law Project, "Hiring Discrimination Against the Unemployed", companies are excluding the unemployed from consideration for job openings

regardless of their qualifications.

And here in Louisiana, an informal Louisiana Budget Project survey of various job posting websites found numerous job ads that state "must be currently employed" or "unemployed applicants will not be considered." Other ads say "applicants unemployed for six months or more will not be considered."

"Excluding the unemployed from job opportunities severely cripples economic recovery," says Edward Ashworth, Louisiana Budget Project director. "With nearly 14 million unemployed, we should be doing all we can to open up employment opportunities to the jobless, not discriminating against them."

Currently, there are laws protecting discrimination against disabled individuals, people of color, women, older workers, religion, and national origin. The Louisiana Budget Project believes the unemployed should also be protected from discrimination.

And there may be hope for relief. A Federal Bill proposes Outlawing Excluding the Unemployed from Job Opportunities. The lawmakers who are proposing the Fair Employment Act of 2011, say that this bill will ban this "employment discrimination" and ensure that unemployed job seekers receive the same consideration as employed individuals.



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