



Louisiana Budget Project

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT,  
NONPARTISAN research and analysis  
of Louisiana fiscal issues and their  
impact on low and moderate  
income residents.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## UNEMPLOYED FACE DISCRIMINATION

(Baton Rouge – July 14, 2011) Unemployed workers face many obstacles as they try to get a job in this post-recession economy. In recent months a new trend has become a giant hurdle for unemployed job seekers, employment discrimination.

According to a new report from National Employment Law Project (NELP), “Hiring Discrimination Against the Unemployed: Federal Bill Outlaws Excluding the Unemployed from Job Opportunities, as Discriminatory Ads Persist,” companies are excluding the unemployed from consideration for job openings regardless of their qualifications. 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.

“Although employer bias in favor of hiring currently employed workers is nothing new, it is particularly outrageous when the country is trying to crawl out of the deepest recession since the Great Depression,” Ashworth said.

Federal lawmakers are proposing the Fair Employment Act of 2011, a bill that will ban this discrimination and ensure that unemployed job seekers receive the same consideration as employed individuals.

Representative Hank Johnson, a co-sponsor of the bill, said “Discrimination against the unemployed—especially the long-term unemployed—in job ads

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and hiring practices flies in the face of what we stand for as a nation: Equal opportunity for all. The Fair Employment Opportunity Act of 2011 will help us level the playing field and get people back to work.”

The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low- and moderate-income residents.

For a copy of the full NELP report read [“Hiring Discrimination Against the Unemployed: Federal Bill Outlaws Excluding the Unemployed from Job Opportunities, as Discriminatory Ads Persist.”](#)

For more information on LBP, visit [www.labudget.org](http://www.labudget.org).

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