

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 11722 - the Deprivation of Employment on Account of Political Contribution bill.

This bill prohibits denial of State and local government employment in Federally-supported programs for refusal to make a political contribution; and expands the current prohibition against racial and political discrimination in Federally-funded work relief programs to cover discrimination based on sex, religion, or national origin.

There have been previously two sections in the Federal Criminal Code directed at protecting Federally-funded employment and relief programs from partisan favoritism.

H. R. 11732 expands the scope of 18 U. S. C. 601 to apply in any Federally-funded program. As expanded, Section 601 would make it unlawful to force or attempt to force any person to make a contribution of value, including services, for the benefit of any candidate or political party by threatening loss of, or denial of employment in any Federal, State, or local government agency or program which involves the use of Federal funds.

Finally, H. R. 11732 also re-enacts, as a new section in the Civil Rights chapter of Title 18, that portion of present 18 U. S. C. 601 regarding denial of employment in Federally-funded relief programs on account of race, creed, color, and political affiliation.

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