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McKeon: Democrats Aid Trial Lawyers, Not American Taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), the senior Republican on the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee, today harshly criticized a Democrat special interest handout in the form of the so-called *Paycheck Fairness Act*, a bill that Republicans have exposed as little more than a trial lawyer payday on the backs of America's job-creating businesses.

"Discrimination in the workplace is wrong, and it's also illegal," said McKeon. "But the bill Democrats brought to the House floor today had nothing to do with preventing discrimination and everything to do with rewarding their special interest allies."

McKeon noted that two federal laws – the Equal Pay Act within the Fair Labor Standards Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act – already prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sex. H.R. 1338 does not establish new protections for women against discrimination in the workplace; rather, it vastly expands the likelihood of discrimination lawsuits by making it easier and more lucrative for trial lawyers to bring such cases.

"Just before beating a path out of Washington for an extended summer vacation, congressional Democrats have made time to advance a top priority of the trial bar. It's too bad they couldn't find time to advance the top priorities of working families, like bringing down the high price of gas," said McKeon.

Democrats blocked Republicans from offering key proposals to strengthen the bill and address other challenges facing working families, including an amendment offered by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) to create a more family-friendly workplace. The lone amendment permitted from a Republican member of the Education and Labor Committee, offered by Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) to ensure the bill would not hamper job growth and recruitment in an uncertain economy, was defeated by Democrats.

Rep. Price also offered a motion to return the bill to Committee in order to limit attorneys' fees and ensure the legislation is not abused by trial lawyers seeking to cash-in on laws intended to protect workers. Although the Price proposal would have imposed an exceedingly generous cap of \$1,000 per hour, Democrats rejected the motion, showing that trial lawyers' ability to profit under the legislation would know no bounds.

Rep. McKeon's remarks delivered during floor consideration of H.R. 1338 can be viewed by selecting the link below or downloaded from the Education and Labor Committee Republican website by clicking [here](#).



Click [here](#) for video of Rep. McKeon's remarks.

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