

ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
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APPOINTMENTS:

VIETNAM VETERANS' HEALTH
INITIATIVE COMMISSION
PA INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION
FOR EDUCATION
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TASK FORCE

January 19, 1999

TO: All House Members

FROM: Allan Egolf *ae*

SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Legislation
Preventing Inmates from Receiving Unemployment Benefits

I plan to reintroduce legislation (H.B. 1740) that would amend the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law to clearly state that individuals who are incarcerated after a conviction are not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. This legislation is being introduced in direct response to an incident that recently occurred in my district. A Perry county inmate who was on a work release program which was subsequently revoked, was awarded \$2400 in unemployment benefits by an unemployment compensation referee. Section 402.6 of the Law already contains language that was intended to prevent such situations and it is my estimation that the referee clearly erred in his decision. However, in order to provide clear guidance to unemployment referee's, my legislation would leave no doubt to the eligibility of individuals who are incarcerated after a conviction.

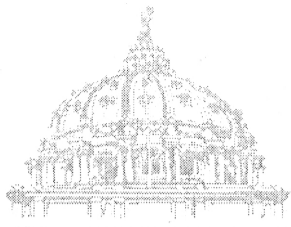
If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Teri Root by Groupwise or by e-mail at troot@pahousegop.com or call 3-1593 as soon as possible.

AE/tcr

Prior Cosponsors: CLARK, BENNINGHOFF, VANCE, MARSICO, FEESE, NAILOR, McNAUGHTON, SAYLOR, STABACK, TIGUE, BAKER, GODSHALL, PHILLIPS, HUTCHINSON, COY, ZUG, MUNDY, GLADECK, SANTONI, WAUGH, BARRAR, MASLAND, DEMPSEY, SEMMEL, MELIO, RUBLEY, FAIRCHILD, JADLOWIEC, LEH, ROHRER, MAJOR, TULLI, LAWLESS, ADOLPH, BROWNE, STEVENSON, HESS, ALLEN, CORNELL, HERSHEY, McILHATTAN, REBER, ARMSTRONG, DENT, CASORIO, ORIE, TRAVAGLIO, TRUE, HALUSKA, FICHTER, HERMAN, CHADWICK, BUNT, KREBS, J. TAYLOR, MAYERNIK, WOJNAROSKI, LYNCH, NICKOL, DALEY, CORRIGAN, D. W. SNYDER, PIPPY, E. Z. TAYLOR, M. N. WRIGHT, PLATTS, ARGALL, WALKO, STRITTMATTER, GEIST, OLASZ, ITKIN, VAN HORNE, ZIMMERMAN, C. WILLIAMS, B. SMITH, ROSS, FORCIER, SATHER, DeLUCA, SEYFERT, ROBERTS, STERN, FLICK and TRELLO.

House of Representatives

News



Rep. Allan Egolf
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Republican Communications Department
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House Republican Caucus
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

For Release: September 11, 1997

Egolf Bill Would Deny Unemployment to Prisoners

HARRISBURG – Rep. Allan Egolf (R-Perry) announced today he has introduced legislation to prevent incarcerated individuals from receiving unemployment compensation benefits.

Egolf said he decided to introduce the bill after it was revealed that a Perry County prison inmate had collected about \$2,400 in unemployment compensation.

“It is unbelievable that a convicted criminal was collecting these benefits,” Egolf said. “There is something terribly wrong with the system when this can happen. The legislation I am introducing will deny payment of unemployment compensation for any weeks the person is incarcerated after a conviction.

“Unemployment compensation benefits are intended to assist deserving people who are not working because of job-related circumstances, not because they committed a crime and are locked up. The tax dollars of honest, hard-working people in Pennsylvania are already being used to house, feed, clothe convicted criminals. It is unfathomable to ask the citizens of this state to support incarcerated individuals through unemployment compensation benefits.”

Egolf said the benefits paid to the prisoner, Douglas Kroh, are being appealed to the state Unemployment Compensation Board. Kroh is a drug offender and parole violator who is to be in prison until July 1998.

Kroh was imprisoned in 1992, was paroled in mid-1995, and was returned to prison due to a parole violation in January 1997. While he was on parole he worked for a garment firm until October 1996. He had applied for unemployment compensation benefits just before and after he was returned to prison earlier this year.

“Hopefully, common sense will prevail in the appeals process and the state can recover the money already paid to the inmate,” Egolf said.

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rm.slg

Steve Dowell

Freelance Photographer

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file
HR 1740
(C.O.)

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SEP 18 1997

9/18/97

To: State Representative Allan Egolf
From: Steve Dowell

Dear Allan,

I wish to thank and congratulate you for proposing the legislation that would prohibit any and all people spending time in a jail, or prison from receiving unemployment compensation in monetary form. "Guilty" people who violate parole and consistantly play the "revolving door" game with our prison system should lose much more than just unemployment compensation. I seriously believe that we as a nation should look very intensely into what we can take away from people within our prison system and return to the tax-payers and more importantly, the victims of crime.

As a tax (and TAXED) paying civilian, I also was very outraged at the recent decision made by the state referee who awarded Douglas Kroh an all-to gracious handout. The referee's choice was yet another act of total incompetence by a leading official who obviously in incapable of making a common sense decision. People of his or her caliber leave a huge question mark in my mind.

In closing, again I wish to express my innermost thank you for standing in the place of common sense, Al. Take care and keep working hard for the hard-working people.

Thankfully,

Steve Dowell

House of Representatives



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Republican Communications Department
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House Republican Caucus
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

For Release: September 12, 1997

Egolf Praises Unemployment Compensation Board Decision

HARRISBURG – Rep. Allan Egolf (R-Perry) today praised a state review board decision overturning a ruling which awarded unemployment compensation to a Perry County prison inmate, and described it as essential to maintaining the integrity of the unemployment compensation system.

“There is no way a prison inmate in this Commonwealth should be receiving unemployment compensation benefits,” Egolf said. “These benefits are intended to serve as a temporary bridge for honest people who aren’t working because of job-related circumstances, not for those who have committed crimes.

“I would like to echo the governor’s sentiments that this is a victory for common sense and decency on behalf of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

“Even with this favorable decision, I will aggressively push for passage of the legislation I introduced Thursday to deny incarcerated individuals from receiving these benefits. This situation must be prevented from happening again.”

On Thursday, Egolf introduced House Bill 1740 which denies unemployment compensation benefits to incarcerated persons.

Also on Thursday, the Unemployment Compensation Review Board overturned a state referee’s ruling which gave inmate Douglas Kroh approximately \$2,400 in benefits. Kroh is a convicted drug trafficker and parole violator who is serving time in the Perry County prison. Egolf said some of the money paid to Kroh has been recovered by the county to pay for court-related fines.

Egolf explained that Gov. Tom Ridge requested the Department of Labor and Industry to appeal the referee’s decision. That appeal led to Thursday’s decision.

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September 9, 1997

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Allan Egolf *AE*

SUBJECT: Press Conference

For those members who are cosponsoring my legislation that would prevent inmates from receiving unemployment benefits, I will be holding a Press Conference on Thursday, September 11, 1997 at 10:00a.m. in the Media Center regarding this legislation.

As a cosponsor of this important legislation, I wanted to give you the opportunity of attending this Press Conference.

If you are not sure whether or not you have cosponsored this legislation, please feel free to contact Teri at 3-1593.

AE/tcr

Secretaries please advise your member immediately of this information. Thank you!!