



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP PASSES AMENDMENT TO CURB OUTSOURCING

Congressman Blocks Federal Funds for Use to Outsource Welfare Call Centers

WASHINGTON, DC - Today Congressman Tim Bishop scored a big win for hard-working American families by preventing more jobs from being shipped overseas. Along with his colleagues Congressmen Robert Andrews (NJ) and Tim Ryan (OH), Bishop successfully attached an amendment to the welfare reform bill in the Education and Workforce Committee prohibiting any funds for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to be used to 'outsource' employment to foreign countries. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.

"Right now, India's workforce is already processing our mortgage applications, reading our X-rays, preparing our tax returns and conducting our financial research," Bishop stated during debate. "Before we add food stamp help desks and call centers to that list, we must ask ourselves how much sense it makes to give away the kind of jobs that we could use to put unemployed Americans to work."

The amendment prohibits use of any to be used to either contract or subcontract work to a location outside the United States, or reduce employment within the U.S.

Bishop, Ryan and Andrews used the example of eFunds to illustrate the unscrupulous businesses practices used by some contractors. After winning a seven-year, \$326,000-a-month contract from the state of New Jersey to provide electronic benefits cards to welfare recipients, eFunds moved its call center from Green Bay, Wisconsin, where it paid workers \$12 an hour, to Bombay, India, where it pays its employees \$3 an hour. Despite the savings, eFunds continued to charge New Jersey the same price for its services. All of the savings from shipping the jobs overseas went straight into the contractor's pockets.

The welfare reform bill will be debated in the House of Representatives in the coming months, and Bishop is hopeful that his amendment will remain in the overall reform package.

"Hundreds of thousands of Americans across the country are out of work and looking to earn an honest living," Bishop stated. "Now is the time to protect American workers and the services they provide and not a time for taxpayer funded layoffs."

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