

**Statement in Support of S494**  
**Prepared for the New Jersey State Senate Government Committee**

*PG Member Name Withheld, NJ*  
February 24, 2004

I applaud Senator Turner's efforts to keep American jobs in America by sponsoring S494. In the past seven years I have lost my job several times, either because it went offshore or went to a foreign worker on an H-1 or L-1 visa.

I am a New Jersey resident and a 44-year-old husband and father of two who lost his job to offshore outsourcing in 2002. The American Worker Replacement Programs (a.k.a. H-1 and L-1 visas and offshore outsourcing) are responsible for putting me and many other Americans in this predicament. I worked on the project for nearly 2 years. During this time I managed a staff of H-1 and L-1 visa workers who eventually obtained the application knowledge needed to enable moving the entire project offshore.

I have 23 years of programming experience and in January 2003, after an eleven-month search, I accepted a programming position in Manhattan. The position required that I commute a total of 4 1/2 hours per day. I was paid on a 1099 basis with no benefits. Being paid on a 1099 basis also required that I pay employer-side FICA taxes. After double taxation, health benefits, and accounting expense are factored into the equation, the pay is equivalent to a \$55,000-per-year employee position. Unfortunately \$55,000 per year does not cover my monthly expenses in New Jersey. In 1995, with my wife and 3-year-old son, I followed the American dream and purchased a modest 2400-square-foot home on a 60x100 lot for \$245,000. At that time I was earning \$76,000 per year and my property taxes were \$4,200 per year. Fast-forward 8 years -- I've been blessed with a 7-year-old daughter and now represent a typical American family. The problem is the American dream has turned into a nightmare. My 2003 salary is \$21,000 less per year and my property taxes have increased to \$7,800 per year. In addition to tax increases, all other costs associated with home ownership and basic everyday living expenses have also increased. It is impossible to support a family of four adequately in New Jersey on \$55,000 per year. To add insult to injury, the 4-hour commute left little time to see my family (who I cannot adequately support on \$55,000). The Manhattan job made it impossible for me to help my children with their homework or sports activities. This is not what I expected of the American dream.

The job I accepted in January of 2003 was eliminated on 12/26/2003 -- Merry Christmas. Now I am unemployed, unemployable, and ineligible for unemployment. But the nightmare gets worse because I fear I have worked my last IT job and I must resort to chasing shopping carts and packing bags. This is one hell of an American dream -- an underemployed 44 year-old husband and father of two. These American worker replacement programs have done nothing for ordinary American citizens, consumers, states, or country as current debts and unemployment rates clearly indicate. The only beneficiaries of The American Worker Replacement Program are the greedy CEOs reaping obscene compensation packages as they announce the benefits of U.S. layoffs and increased offshore outsourcing. Ultimately the American standard of living will plummet. Congress has not only turned a blind eye to these issues but shares the burden of responsibility as they continue to increase H-1B visa limits, allow unlimited L-1 visas, and allow offshore outsourcing to continue unchecked.

The American Worker Replacement Program is a national disgrace, it is far more serious a threat to America than al Qaeda. An economically weak country will find it difficult to overcome even the smallest obstacles.

What will the impact be on Americans pursuing degrees in the United States? Americans will waste tens of thousands of dollars in preparation for careers that will not exist on graduation day because the jobs are either going offshore or domestic wages are driven down by foreign cheap immigrant labor. What will America's children do? The U.S. dependence on foreign technology will be as detrimental as its dependence on foreign oil.

I am dismayed as my future and my children's future is sold out by a nation, once proud, for the elite few. The social contract between the governed and the government has started to fall apart.

I urge you to put an end to The American Worker Replacement Program by ensuring S494 is passed. In addition, the bill should include an amendment to permit only U.S. residents and green card holders to work on state contracts paid for by taxpayer's dollars.

In closing, I would remind you that every American displaced by The American Replacement Worker Program means another unemployed tax-paying American worker making it difficult to close the ever-widening federal and state budget deficits.

Respectfully,  
*PG Member Name Withheld*

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