

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3070

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure the protection of employees in travelling sales crews, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 2001

Mr. PETRI (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure the protection of employees in travelling sales crews, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Travelling Sales Crew
5 Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF
7 1938 TO CERTAIN OUTSIDE SALESMEN.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Fair Labor
9 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213) is amended by
10 adding at the end the following:

1 “(k) For purposes of subsection (a)(1), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term ‘outside salesman’ does not include any individual employed in the position of a salesman, if the individual travels with a group of salespeople, including a supervisor, team leader or crew leader, and the employees in the group do not return to their permanent residences at the end of the work day.”.

9 (b) LIMITATION ON CHILD LABOR.—Section 12 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 212) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(e) No individual under 18 years of age may be employed in a position requiring the individual to engage in door-to-door sales or in related support work in a manner that requires the individual to remain away from the individual’s permanent residence for more than 24 hours.”.

17 **SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF TRAVELLING SALES CREWS.**

18 (a) TRAVELLING SALES CREW WORKER DEFINED.—

19 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term “travelling sales crew worker” means an individual who—

21 (A) is employed as a salesperson or in related support work;

23 (B) travels with a group of salespersons, including a supervisor; and

(C) is required to be absent overnight from his or her permanent place of residence.—

3 (2) Such term does not include—

4 (D) any individual who meets the requirements
5 of subparagraph (A) if such individual is travelling
6 to a trade show or convention; or

7 (E) any immediate family member of a traveling sales crew employer.
8

9 (b) SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE RULES.—Not later
10 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
11 the Secretary of Labor (hereinafter in this Act, the “Sec-
12 retary”) shall prescribe rules governing the protection of
13 travelling sales crews. Such rules shall contain the fol-
14 lowing requirements:

10 (B) PAYMENT OF WAGES, RECORD-
11 KEEPING.—For each pay period, the employer
12 must—

13 (i) pay to each travelling sales crew
14 worker employed by such employer wages
15 owed such worker when due;

16 (ii) make such payment in United
17 States currency or by negotiable instru-
18 ment; and

19 (iii) provide a written statement to
20 each travelling sales crew worker employed
21 by such employer, and maintain records
22 (which must be kept for at least 3 years),
23 relating to the earnings of (and any
24 withholdings of earnings from) each such
25 worker.

(C) EMPLOYER PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEE BUSINESS EXPENSES.—Other than a deduction from wages for the actual cost to the employer of any board, lodging, or other facilities provided by the employer to a travelling sales crew worker employed by such employer, the employer may not require the worker—

(i) to purchase any goods or services solely from the employer; or

(ii) to pay for any of the employer's business expenses.

(D) VEHICLE INSURANCE.—The employer must maintain liability insurance coverage in compliance with any applicable State law and sufficient (as determined by the Secretary) to protect any travelling sales crew workers transported in such a vehicle and to ensure against liability to other persons and property arising from the use of such vehicle for such purpose, except that if the Secretary determines that such workers are covered under an applicable workers' compensation insurance policy provided by the employer, additional vehicle insurance covering such workers may be waived by the Secretary.

1 (E) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—The em-
2 ployer must maintain any motor vehicle used to
3 transport a travelling sales crew worker em-
4 ployed by such employer in compliance with any
5 applicable Federal, State, or local vehicle safety
6 standards and with any additional safety rules
7 prescribed by the Secretary.

15 (G) PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION.—
16 An employer, or an agent of the employer, may
17 not intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, black-
18 list, discharge, or in any manner discriminate
19 against any travelling sales crew worker be-
20 cause such worker has, with just cause, filed
21 any complaint or instituted, or caused to be in-
22 stituted, any proceeding under or related to this
23 Act, or has testified or is about to testify in any
24 such proceeding, or because of the exercise,
25 with just cause, by such worker on behalf of the

1 worker or others of any right or protection af-
2 forded by this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

4 (a) **CRIMINAL SANCTIONS.**—An employer that will-
5 fully and knowingly violates a rule prescribed under this
6 Act shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or
7 fined not more than \$10,000, or both. Upon conviction
8 for a subsequent violation of a rule prescribed under this
9 Act, an employer shall be imprisoned for not more than
10 3 years or fined not more than \$50,000, or both.

11 (b) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—An employer that violates a
12 rule prescribed under this Act shall be liable to the United
13 States for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for
14 each such violation. The Secretary may assess and collect
15 such civil penalty after a determination, made on the
16 record after opportunity for an agency hearing, of—

17 (1) liability for such violation; and
18 (2) the appropriate amount of the penalty,
19 based on the previous compliance record of the em-
20 ployer and the gravity of the violation.

21 (c) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.**—The Secretary shall
22 prescribe rules providing a procedure for an aggrieved
23 travelling sales crew worker to file an administrative com-
24 plaint with the Secretary, which the Secretary shall inves-
25 tigate and follow up with any appropriate enforcement ac-

1 tion against the employer of such worker, including refer-
2 ral to the Attorney General of such employer for criminal
3 sanctions under subsection (a), the imposition by the Sec-
4 retary of a civil penalty under subsection (b), or the filing
5 of a civil action on behalf of such worker to enjoin such
6 employer under subsection (d).

7 (d) CIVIL ACTION.—Any person aggrieved by a viola-
8 tion of a rule prescribed under this Act (or the Secretary,
9 on behalf of any such person) may bring, in an appro-
10 priate United States district court (without regard to the
11 amount in controversy, the citizenship of the parties, or
12 the exhaustion of administrative remedies), a civil
13 action—

14 (1) to enjoin such violation;
15 (2) to recover the greater of—
16 (A) actual damages; or
17 (B) not more than \$1,000 for each such
18 violation for each plaintiff (which may not ex-
19 ceed \$1,000,000 for all plaintiffs in a class);
20 and
21 (3) for other equitable relief; and
22 (4) to recover the costs of the litigation and a
23 reasonable attorney fee.

