



Fight For Freelancers Co-Founder Testifies Before U.S. Congress on the Right to Self-Employment

Kim Kavin, a New Jersey freelance writer and editor, warns Workforce Protections Subcommittee of freelance-busting's negative effects on the economy

APRIL 21, 2023, WASHINGTON, D.C.: Fight For Freelancers USA, a nonpartisan, self-funded, ad hoc coalition of solopreneurs, small-business owners, freelancers and other independent contractors, took its message to the U.S. House of Representatives [Workforce Protections Subcommittee](#) on April 19, strongly urging lawmakers to protect the right to choose self-employment.

Fight For Freelancers co-founder Kim Kavin, a freelance writer and editor from New Jersey, testified at a [hearing](#) about the need to protect independent contractors across the United States from proposed restrictions on the choice of self-employment. She warned about potential negative effects of federal legislation and regulations, modeled after California's disastrous Assembly Bill 5, that redefine who is an independent contractor and who is an employee.

Immediately after [her opening statement](#), Kavin addressed the committee's Ranking Member, Alma Adams, D-N.C., [directly](#): "I hope we can have a conversation today about just how much harm it's going to do to our economy if you misclassify tens of millions Americans like me." Rep. Adams failed to respond.

When [asked by Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C.](#), about her experience interacting with state and federal lawmakers and regulators who seek to misclassify legitimate independent contractors, Kavin testified, "I have had lawmakers laugh in my face." She added that independent contractors have been ignored in public hearings and were advised to take their concerns to the AFL-CIO, which lawmakers say is the driving force behind the freelance-busting efforts nationwide.

“Millions of us whose livelihoods are in the crosshairs have been trying to be heard for three years,” Kevin says. “I’m grateful to Chairman Kevin Kiley for this opportunity to explain that rewriting the rules to misclassify legitimate independent contractors will destroy our income and careers.”

Additional witnesses who testified in support of independent contractors included Tammy D. McCutchen, senior affiliate with Resolution Economics and former administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the U.S. Department of Labor; Liya Palagashvili, senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University; and Karen Anderson, founder of the California-based advocacy group Freelancers Against AB5.

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