

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc. and its member retailers, independent grocers operating over 2400 stores, strongly urge you to support HR 2575 to change the definition of "full-time" under the Affordable Care Act from 30 hours per week to 40 hours per week. Simply, the current 30 hour definition does not align with business reality nor employees' desires for flexible hours, and will have far reaching adverse effects on employers, employees, jobs and the economy as a whole. The current definition is especially problematic in the grocery industry where retailers must operate with fluctuating work schedules to meet employee needs and varying consumer demand. If not amended, the current definition will mean the reduction of work hours for individual employees, leading to less take-home pay and fundamentally reshaping the labor market.

In order to enable employers to continue to effectively manage their workforces, properly adjust work schedules, provide more hours for individual employees and meet fluctuating consumer demand, we strongly urge your support and passage of HR 2575 and similar legislation, HR 2988 and S1188, Forty Hours Is Full Time Act.

Sincerely,

James C. Holland
Senior Associate General Counsel, Employment & Litigation
Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
5000 Kansas Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66106
(913) 288-1506 (direct)
(913) 288-1573 (fax)
jcholland@awginc.com