

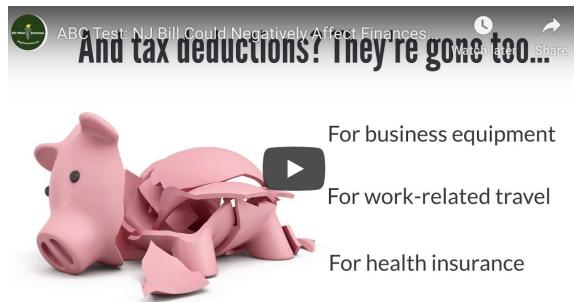


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Anti-Independent Contractor Bill NJ S863: How the ABC Test Threatens Income, Tax Deductions and Savings at a Time When We Need Them Most

Fight for Freelancers New Jersey launches ninth #IRSnotABC video in series

TRENTON, N.J., MARCH 16, 2020 — Fight For Freelancers New Jersey, a nonpartisan, grassroots group of 1,100 independent contractors, creatives, and businesses, has launched the ninth video [in its series](#) urging New Jersey lawmakers to reject Senate Bill 863 (S863) and instead enact a modern labor law that uses the Internal Revenue Service's common law test.



S863, which defines employee status, would apply the regressive ABC test, developed during the Great Depression, to today's workforce in a new way. Many thriving independent contractors would be thrown out of their chosen careers and forced to seek traditional jobs they don't want.

“With the coronavirus spreading, employers in panic mode, and the stock market in turmoil, everyone is worried about cash flow and savings,” says Kim Kavin, a freelance writer from Long

Valley and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers New Jersey. “There could not be a worse time for the state to eliminate the tax deductions and ability to save that independent contractors currently have, and the income that S863 would jeopardize by forcing us into seeking W2 jobs, which will become increasingly scarce in the face of layoffs.”

S863 — and specifically, the ABC Test at its rotten core — would take a major toll on independent contractors. Specifically, S863 would:

- Make it nearly impossible to be legally considered independent contractors
- Prevent entrepreneurs from launching businesses outside the focus of their day jobs
- Eliminate the freedom of companies to hire freelance help as needed
- Force independent workers to seek W2 jobs at a time when companies are reeling

The Fight For Freelancers New Jersey video series calls on lawmakers to replace the ABC test with the IRS common law test, which accommodates the modern, creative workforce, including the [79% of independent contractors](#) who told the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics they want to remain that way. A similar law, AB5, took effect in California on January 1, 2020, and has [created chaos](#) across industries ranging from writers and musicians to therapists and nonprofits.

“America already has more chaos than it can handle right now,” says Jen Singer, a freelance writer from Red Bank and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers New Jersey. “Proposing S863 was a bad financial deal for independent contractors before the coronavirus hit. Now, as we all adjust to this emergency situation, it would be unconscionable for lawmakers to support this bill’s restrictions on our ability to drum up business and make money.”

Vote no on S863 and the outdated ABC test. Vote yes for the modern IRS test.

WATCH the new two-minute video at the Fight For Freelancers NJ website:

<https://fightforfreelancers.com/videos/>

#IRSnotABC

#FightForFreelancers

www.fightforfreelancers.com

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