

Handy response re supporting legislation to classify most gig workers as independent contractors and implications for workers' rights

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Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Handy to respond to an article that explores whether by supporting legislation that would permanently classify most gig workers as independent contractors, Handy is undermining worker rights and protections:

- “For gig economy workers in these states, rights are at risk,” CNN Money, March 14, 2018 <http://money.cnn.com/2018/03/14/news/economy/handy-gig-economy-workers/index.html>

Handy sent the following statement:

“We have worked to find a legislative solution that both classifies independent contractors and allows companies to provide portable benefits to the hundreds of thousands of independent contractors finding work and earning income on platforms like ours.

Unfortunately, we have not been met with the same willingness to work together. Since we have been unable to come to a resolution that addresses both issues – providing benefits and clarifying classification – we are supporting legislation that focuses solely on creating a clear test for worker classification in the on-demand sector. By providing clear, objective framework for everyone to follow, this legislation will bring much needed clarity to the law, and enable the on-demand economy to continue to grow, innovative and bring new income opportunities to millions of Americans.

Handy still remains committed to creating a system that will enable companies to provide independent workers with access to benefits, and we are actively engaged in exploring the creation of a benefits pilot program. If at any time anyone has opposed our legislation genuinely wants to work together to find a solution that addresses both issues, we'd be thrilled to do so.”