

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2013
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NELP Commends NY City Council for Overriding Mayor's Veto, Enacting Nation's Strongest Jobless Discrimination Protections

Christine L. Owens, executive director of the National Employment Law Project, issued the following statement Wednesday after the New York City Council's vote to override a mayoral veto and enact the [nation's strongest measure protecting unemployed job-seekers from discrimination](#).

"We applaud the New York City Council for its vote today to override the mayor's ill-conceived veto and enact much-needed protections for unemployed job-seekers facing hiring discrimination.

"Excluding qualified job-seekers from access to employment opportunities because they are unemployed exacerbates the hardship of those struggling mightily to return to the working world, and it needlessly prolongs the crisis of long-term unemployment. Such discriminatory practices are wrong-headed and unfair. And now they're also illegal in New York City.

"Council Members and Speaker Christine Quinn are to be commended for their determination to recognize and uphold the rights of job-seekers who happen to be unemployed.

"While one might never know it from the distorted debate in Washington over varying – yet all harmful – degrees of austerity, our nation's most critical problem is the persistence of extremely high levels of long-term unemployment. When we should be doing everything we can to help the millions of long-term jobless return to good jobs and productive lives, it is heartening to see the New York City Council taking potent action to help address this issue."

The National Employment Law Project is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts research, education and advocacy on issues affecting low-wage and unemployed workers. For more about NELP, visit www.nelp.org.

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