



Urgent Message for Mystery Shoppers

March 13, 2009

Dear Mystery Shopper:

MSPA has some very important, and quite serious, information for you.

There are some **very serious legislative threats that could deny you the right to work as an independent contractor and threaten the mystery shopping industry.**

We **urge you to contact your Senators and Members of Congress** and implore them to oppose legislation that would undermine the legal recognition of independent-contractor status.

We ask that you contact your Senators and your Congressional Representatives in three ways:

1. **Call their Washington or home district offices**
2. **Send them an email or submit a web-form message to them**
3. **Write and mail a letter to them** (and copy us at the address on the bottom of this message or send a copy by fax or email)

The following are suggested points you should make in your communications:

- I am an independent contractor (I do mystery shopping on contract with companies) and I strongly urge you to oppose any proposals that would threaten my right to work as an independent contractor
- New laws that increase the risks to companies that do business with independent contractors put legitimate self-employed service providers – like me – out of business, because our clients will be afraid to do business with us.
- Many companies that are clients of Independent Contractors qualify for Section 530 protection and need the certainty that Section 530 provides in order to continue doing business with independent contractors – like me.
- IRS data indicate that the federal tax compliance rate for independent contractors whose earnings are reported on Forms 1099 is 97%, which is only 2 percentage points lower than the 99% compliance rate for employees--that is, we are, as a group, tax-paying, law-abiding citizens.
- Now is an especially inappropriate time for the government to take any action that will depress economic activity, especially in the entrepreneurial sector.

If you have other "bullet-point" issues you think other MSPA shoppers might find useful in crafting their own messages, please send them to us via email to vikki@mysteryshop.org and we

will add them to the list.

Thank you for your support in this very important effort.

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Contacting Your Senators and Congressional Representatives

[Click here for a complete list of Senators and their addresses and other contact information.](#)

[Click here for a complete list of Congressional Representatives and their addresses and other contact information.](#)

To find who represents you in Congress (both Senate and House of Representatives), simply go to this link:

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

You can find **detailed contact information for your Congressional representative** at:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

You can find **detailed contact information for your Senators** at:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

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