

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SOUND OFF ON THE WARN ACT



“I am deeply concerned by The Blade’s findings. Congress passed the WARN Act to protect workers and their families from the harmful effects of sudden plant closings and mass layoffs. The notice was designed to give workers an opportunity to adjust to the imminent loss of employment and to obtain the retraining necessary to compete in the job market. The Blade’s findings highlight that the legislation is not achieving its goals, and that the legislation needs to be updated and improved to better serve the needs of U.S. workers.”

◀ **Sen. Hillary Clinton, New York Democrat**

“Families’ hold on the middle class is more precarious than ever — the chances that an average person will experience a 50 percent or larger drop in income has more than doubled since the 1970s. We need to strengthen the WARN Act, including its enforcement, so it provides working Americans with the fair notice Congress intended when jobs are downsized or outsourced.”

▶ **Former Sen. John Edwards, North Carolina Democrat**



“When factories shut down, it’s the government’s job to step up on behalf of the unemployed. The least the federal government can do is to require that employers give their workers 60 days’ notice if they determine they must close a plant. Failing to give the Department of Labor enforcement power has allowed employers to wink at the courts as they circumvent the law, and it’s tough to hold them accountable after the corporation has dissolved. We must ensure that workers receive as much notice as possible if employers anticipate layoffs, and we must also retrain them to re-enter the workplace as quickly as possible.”

◀ **Sen. Barack Obama, Illinois Democrat**



Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor; Sen. John McCain of Arizona, and Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor, did not respond to requests for interviews from The Blade.