

HOUSE No. 1558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, July 10, 1933.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act, the President has approved a textile code providing among other things for a forty-hour work week, with provision for minimum wages and other provisions for the benefit of the industry in general. This code is for the benefit of the textile industry in Massachusetts and those workers employed in that industry. The provision of our law, however, which forbids the employment of women after six o'clock in the evening will be a bar to operation under the proposed code by Massachusetts textile mills, and, therefore a great loss both to the employer and to the employee. In the competitive search for business, under this code, mills in those states which do not operate under a six o'clock law for women will have a great advantage. This situation is critical for employer and employee alike.

I, therefore, recommend that the Commissioner of Labor and Industries be authorized to suspend the operation of the six o'clock law during the time when the federal code is in operation for the textile industry, or a relief from the six o'clock law in such manner as you may deem advisable under all the circumstances.

JOSEPH B. ELY.

