

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to thank you for your efforts on bipartisan legislative packages, which continue to provide relief for hard-working Americans during this unprecedented time. As debate about the appropriate ongoing legislative response continues, we are increasingly concerned by proposals extending the \$600 supplemental unemployment insurance (UI) provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As states throughout the nation are reopening industries, the negative impact of supplemental UI on employers' ability to incentivize employees to return to the workplace is becoming apparent. Although the additional assistance was made in good faith, unfortunately, many of these job creators have found their employees are receiving more UI assistance than they were previously receiving from their employer. Researchers at the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics report 68 percent of individuals eligible to receive unemployment assistance would receive a UI amount greater than their previous earnings, with one out of five receiving more than double their prior wages.¹

At this critical point in reopening, our economy and our business owners cannot afford to have their employees earning a substantial income from their fellow taxpayers. Small businesses receiving loans from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) are especially harmed if they cannot provide competitive wages and persuade their employees to return to work within the allotted time frame for PPP forgiveness. The supplemental UI was intended to be a lifeline for those whose employer was unable to retain them, not set individuals on a path to continued reliance on

¹ Ganong, Peter, et al. U.S. Unemployment Insurance Replacement Rates During the Pandemic, (May 15, 2020), available at https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/BFI_WP_202062-1.pdf.

government assistance. If these benefits are extended, it would only reinforce and deepen the structural issues and rampant abuse of our public assistance programs that existed prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Our focus should be on helping our constituents return to work while also supporting businesses as they safely resume their operations and attempt to recover financially. We ask that you take these concerns into consideration and allow the \$600 supplemental UI benefits to expire at the end of July, as intended in the CARES Act. Once again, thank you for your previous efforts and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress




Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress

/S/ Alex X. Mooney

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Austin Scott

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser

Daniel P. Meuser
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Steve Palazzo

Steven M. Palazzo
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Fred Keller

Fred Keller
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Michael Guest

Michael Guest
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John W. Rose

John Rose
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Debbie Lesko

Debbie Lesko
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Mike Conaway

Mike Conaway
Member of Congress

/S/ Jody B. Hice

Jody B. Hice
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Kevin Hern

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins

Steve Watkins
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs

Bob Gibbs
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Scott DesJarlais

Scott DesJarlais
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Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



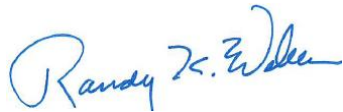
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
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Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
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Scott Tipton
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Ken Buck
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Tim Burchett
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David Kustoff
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Ron Estes
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Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Ross Spano
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



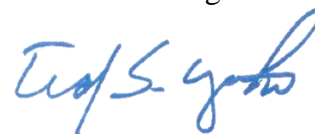
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Member of Congress



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Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
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/S/ Bruce Westerman

Bruce Westerman
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Kelly Armstrong
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Vicky Hartzler
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