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Joe Miller

State Representative - District 56

We would like to thank Chair Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, and the members of the Ways and Means Committee for hearing our testimony today.

HB 570 grants Ohioans a tax-break that many qualified for but missed due to delays with Ohio's unemployment system.

The American Rescue Plan Act included a \$10,200 tax break for those who received PUA compensation, but this tax-break expired after the 2020 filing season. Many of our constituents at this time were receiving PUA compensation and due to a poorly managed unemployment system, benefits were delayed to millions of Ohioans. These constituents were bouncing around the system, or wrongfully denied. These same Ohioans who qualified for this tax-break missed it and I believe that is unfair.

This bill grants Ohioans a one-time tax break on up to \$10,200 of unemployment benefits (the same amount required by the American Rescue Plan Act) during the 2022 filing period for those Ohioans qualifying under previous guidelines.

To be clear, this is a tax-break that is rightfully due to Ohioans. It is not the fault of theirs that the outdated system we were under put them past the deadline. This was a time of uncertainty and the added stress of not being given a break they were due added to that stress and anxiety we all felt. We have an opportunity to right this wrong and continue to help get our citizens back on their feet.

Now I am going to turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Sobecki.