

As Adopted by the Senate

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. R. No. 21

Senators Hackett, Reineke

**Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Cirino, Craig, Dolan, Fedor,
Gavarone, Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, M., Huffman, S., Johnson, Kunze,
Lang, McColley, O'Brien, Peterson, Roegner, Rulli, Schaffer, Schuring, Sykes,
Thomas, Wilson, Yuko**

A R E S O L U T I O N

To urge the federal government to increase the 1
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program's 2
security against fraudulent actors, both 3
internationally and domestically. 4

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, The rate of unemployment fraud is skyrocketing in 5
Ohio and around the country, and we can no longer afford to 6
freely hand out taxpayer dollars without some kind of security 7
measures against fraud; and 8

WHEREAS, The unemployment compensation system is a federal- 9
state partnership; and 10

WHEREAS, Part of the partnership between the federal 11
government and the State of Ohio is that Ohio will ensure prompt 12
payment of both state unemployment benefits and benefits under 13
the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; and 14

WHEREAS, While we are in an unprecedented pandemic, and 15
there is great need for expediency when processing unemployment 16
claims, there must be some form of security check to prevent 17

claims from being made in our constituents' names without their 18
knowledge or consent; and 19

WHEREAS, The federal attitude of "pay and chase," meaning 20
the overemphasis on expediting benefit payments without 21
traditional safeguards, must be re-evaluated and changed; and 22

WHEREAS, Across the country, regardless of whether these 23
fraudulent claims are through states' traditional unemployment 24
systems or the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, 25
taxpayer dollars are being siphoned off by domestic criminals 26
and international thieves; and 27

WHEREAS, This fraud deprives our state and federal 28
governments of necessary resources during a pandemic and costs 29
our constituents money; and 30

WHEREAS, This fraud slows down the process by which 31
unemployment benefits are distributed to those who are truly in 32
need within our communities; and 33

WHEREAS, Instituting a system that stamps out fraud and 34
theft will clear the way for resources to flow where they are 35
needed more quickly and efficiently; and 36

WHEREAS, Ohioans who receive 1099-G tax forms for 37
unemployment benefits that they did not receive must navigate a 38
cumbersome, frustrating, and unresponsive system to clear the 39
fraud status from their account; now therefore be it 40

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 41
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the federal government to 42
reinstitute the traditional safeguards as well as new 43
identification verification to ensure that the individuals 44
requesting and receiving benefits under the Pandemic 45
Unemployment Assistance program are those who truly need it, and 46
not fraudulent actors; and be it further 47

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 48

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| authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the | 49 |
| United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House | 50 |
| of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of | 51 |
| the United States Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional | 52 |
| delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Labor, and the news media of | 53 |
| Ohio. | 54 |