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Senate Insurance Committee
Senate Bill 31 — Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 31.

Senate Bill 31 will provide legislative oversight of executive action on federal voluntary unemployment compensation benefits.

Simply put, if the federal government comes to Ohio offering major changes to unemployment benefits again, the legislature will have to give its approval before any administration can accept the benefits.

This legislative body is always in pursuit of stronger cooperation with the executive and Ohio's various government agencies, and part of that is remaining a proactive participant in the oversight of unemployment benefits. The people of Ohio are best served when their elected officials are doing their due diligence.

Even though the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) has ended, it is clear that it damaged the economy by encouraging people not to go back to work as evidenced by businesses across the state begging for employees, restricting hours and even closing.

We receive feedback from our constituents on a daily basis, including the small businesses in our districts that struggled for months to hire, or even re-hire, workers and fully reopen their doors. I have even personally seen how employers are offering bonuses for those who simply come for an interview.

One poll even showed that 1.8 million American adults responded that they receive enough money from unemployment insurance without having to work. (Morning Consult, July, 2021)

This bill is not antagonistic toward any administration, and I hope the governor agrees that this is a proper exercise of oversight. In fact, I am in full agreement with his actions to reject further voluntary federal unemployment benefits. Therefore, the value of this legislation is in getting Ohioans back to work and protecting our economy in future administrations.

Thank you once again Chairman Hackett and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.