

# A RESOLUTION

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

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Ohio:*

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

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

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

WHEREAS, While we are in an unprecedented pandemic, and there is great need for expediency when processing unemployment claims, there must be some form of security check to prevent claims from being made in our constituents' names without their knowledge or consent; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Labor, and the news media of Ohio.

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*President \_\_\_\_\_ of the Senate.*

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_