COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Don Scott
Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates
355 Crawford Street Ste. 704
Portsmouth, VA 23704

The Honorable Scott Surovell
Majority Leader, Virginia Senate
P.O. Box 289
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Dear Governor Youngkin, Speaker Scott, and Leader Surovell,

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing today to urge you to take additional action to address the growing economic crisis facing our region and the greater Commonwealth. 175,000 federal employees in Northern Virginia, many of whom are veterans, are experiencing job loss or job uncertainty as a result of the workforce reductions taking place across the federal government. I write to request your assistance to support our shared constituents who are suffering.

As you are aware, unemployment rates are on the rise across Virginia, most significantly in Northern Virginia where federal workers are concentrated. In addition to those directly employed by the federal government, tens of thousands of contracted employees are also facing uncertainty as their federal contracts are being canceled or defunded. For the week ending March 8, 2025, unemployment claims increased by 20%.

The repercussions of these job losses are far-reaching. Many of our residents are wondering how they will pay their rent or mortgage, buy groceries, and keep the lights on. For reference, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County is $2,607. The loss of income not only affects individual households but also threatens the economic stability of our local businesses and the overall vibrancy of our community. As you know, Virginia's economic vibrancy depends on Northern Virginia, which comprises 46% of the Commonwealth's GDP.

Virginia's maximum unemployment benefit is a meager $378 per week, the lowest in our region. Without additional resources, our current unemployment insurance system is facing the prospect of being both overwhelmed by new claims, as well as insufficient to support the few who do qualify.

In light of these challenges, and with a reconvened session on the horizon, I urge you to take tangible steps to enhance Virginia's unemployment benefits. Improvements could include dedicating a portion of the Commonwealth's surplus to provide an additional $600 per month to those affected by these federal cuts, mirroring the supplemental benefits extended during the COVID-19 pandemic. This benefit should extend to all Virginia residents impacted by federal cuts, including part-time, self-employed, and gig workers, and those whose place of employment is outside of Virginia. Additionally, legislation such as HB1767, which passed the State Senate with bipartisan support, would expand eligibility to federal contractors.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and to working together to support Virginia's workforce.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

CC:
Del. David Bulova, Chair, Emergency Committee on Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions
Sen. Louise Lucas, Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Special Subcommittee
Members, Fairfax County Delegation to Virginia General Assembly