

May 13, 2021

Governor Greg Abbott
PO Box 308
Austin, TX 78767

Chairman Bryan Daniel
101 E 15th St
Austin, TX 78778

Dear Governor Abbott and Chairman Daniel,

When the pandemic began, Texans came together to respond to the health crisis. Many businesses fought to stay open to ensure people had access to food, medicine and other necessities, and Texans did their part to protect the health of those workers.

In that same spirit, we now need to come together to avoid a potential economic crisis. Businesses are opening their doors and making good jobs available with competitive pay and benefits. Texans are ready to step up once again to help their communities by returning to work, but there remain roadblocks to rebuilding our vibrant economy.

With COVID-19 on the decline and job openings on the rise, we believe it is time for Texas leaders and the Texas Workforce Commission to re-examine unemployment benefits and look for new opportunities to support working families.

We are hearing from our constituencies all over the state that finding and hiring workers in Texas is increasingly difficult. Important Texas jobs are going unfilled, threatening our state's recovery and economic future.

To help address this serious risk to our recovery and to encourage productivity and lower unemployment, we respectfully request state leaders and the Texas Workforce Commission to:

- Consider ending Texas's participation in the supplemental federal UI payment which stacks on top of standard unemployment insurance. Employers are citing the \$300 additional weekly federal stimulus payment as a major barrier to fill their job openings. Some states have already announced they are ending participation in this program.
- Promote through social media, traditional news and online platforms that Texas companies are hiring, jobs are available and that UI beneficiaries are required to search for work.
- Explore additional steps Texas can take—potentially with funding the state will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act—to support workers reentering the job market and their families.

Texans want to get back to work, back to school and back to normal. Employers believe that supplemental UI benefit payments from Washington are disincentivizing work and resulting in many good Texas jobs going unfilled. We believe it is time to realign government incentives behind the goal of rebuilding our economy together.

We again applaud your leadership during the COVID crisis, for reopening Texas and for encouraging a strong private sector and jobs climate in our state. By returning to pre-COVID UI benefits and work-search requirements and oversight, and supporting working families, Texas can expedite our economic recovery for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Texas Association of Business
National Federation of Independent Business
Texas Association of Manufacturers
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Cotton Association
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association
Texas Food & Fuel Association
Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
Texas Independent Ginners Association
Texas Nursery and Landscaping Association
Texas Public Policy Foundation
Texas Restaurant Association
Texas Retailers Association
Texas Travel Alliance
Theatre Owners of Mid-America
Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Bastrop Chamber of Commerce
Boerne Chamber of Commerce
The Chamber – Schertz Cibolo Selma Area

Denison Chamber of Commerce
El Campo Chamber of Commerce
Elgin Chamber of Commerce
Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
Galveston Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce
McAllen Chamber of Commerce
Ozona Chamber of Commerce
Rockport Fulton Chamber of Commerce
Rowlett Chamber of Commerce
Temple Chamber of Commerce
Texarkana Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tomball Chamber of Commerce
Tyler Chamber of Commerce
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce



TEXAS FOOD & FUEL ASSOCIATION



TEXAS RETAILERS ASSOCIATION



Texas Public Policy Foundation



TNLA TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION



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TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION



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