

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Laura Kelly, Governor
300 SW 10 Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly:

On behalf of the assigned coalition, we accept your invitation to meet to discuss the state ending its involvement in a federal program that provides supplemental unemployment benefits and other actions Kansas can take to get more workers back into the workforce. In addition, we have updated the information on what other states are doing regarding their federal benefits and incentives for their citizens to return to work.

Kansas employers of all sizes and from all industries are concerned about the lack of available workers in the state. As everyone looks to move past the COVID pandemic, the business community felt it was important to share what we believe would be positive solutions to help the state- for both the public and private sector.

Employers with temporary remote employees are slowly phasing-in the return of their workforce to the physical office. In addition, businesses who were forced to operate at reduced capacity are now unable to return to full capacity because of their inability to find and hire workers. While the state's unemployment rate is low, there are currently more than 57,000 job openings across the state according to indeed.com. The March 2021 labor report shows 58,468 individuals receiving unemployment insurance.

Our coalition believes the additional UI federal benefits have been an important short-term solution to help individuals who were adversely impacted at the start of the pandemic. However, 13 months later, many employers are finding it nearly impossible to fully staff their businesses which impacts the supply chain and timely delivery of goods and services.

We believe other barriers may exist for those reentering the workforce. We would advocate to redirect available federal dollars toward incentivizing return-to-work with a signing bonus program, temporary childcare assistance and training/retraining initiatives for Kansans who might have lost their jobs during the pandemic but have struggled to re-enter the workforce.

Below are the states that have currently opted out of the Federal UI benefits:

June 12, 2021

1. Alaska
2. Iowa
3. Mississippi
4. Missouri

June 19, 2021

5. Alabama
6. Idaho
7. Indiana

June 26, 2021

8. North Dakota
9. West Virginia
10. Wyoming
11. Arkansas
12. Georgia
13. Ohio
14. Oklahoma – also offering a one-time \$1,200 Return to Work bonus

June 26, 2021 con't

- 15. South Dakota
- 16. Texas
- 17. Utah

June 30, 2021

- 19. South Carolina
- 20. New Hampshire-also offering a \$1,000 Return to Work bonus

June 27, 2021

- 18. Montana – also offering a one-time \$1,200 Return to Work bonus

July 3, 2021

- 21. Tennessee

July 10, 2021

- 22. Arizona – also offering a one-time \$2,000 Return to Work bonus

States NOT ending federal benefits, BUT adding/providing Back to Work bonuses:

- Connecticut - \$1,000
- Colorado - \$1,600 (job in May) and \$1,200 (job in June)

We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and the concerns of the Kansas business community. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how more Kansans can be encouraged to return to the state's workforce, so Kansas employers have the workers they need to reopen their doors and return to full operational capacity.

Thank you,

- 1. 3P Processing
- 2. 4th and Elm
- 3. 7 Yankee Run
- 4. A. M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
- 5. Accessible Home Health
- 6. Adler Pelzer Group
- 7. Advance Property Management
- 8. Allen Samuels CDJR
- 9. Alma Manor
- 10. American Dish
- 11. American Fun Food Company, Inc.
- 12. Americans for Prosperity
- 13. Amino Brothers Co., Inc.
- 14. APAC Shears
- 15. Area Wide Electric
- 16. Arrowhead West, Inc.
- 17. ARTHUR-GREEN LLP
- 18. Asset LifeCycle, LLC
- 19. Associated General Contractors of Kansas
- 20. Associated Material & Supply Co.
- 21. Associated Wholesale Grocers
- 22. AuBurn Pharmacy, Inc.
- 23. Auspision, LLC
- 24. Avantic Lodging Enterprises
- 25. Avenue 81
- 26. B & B Hydraulics, Inc.
- 27. Bankers Bank of Kansas
- 28. Bar'n Grill
- 29. Bayer Construction Co., Inc.
- 30. Bethany Village
- 31. Bettis Asphalt & Construction
- 32. Bev-Hub
- 33. Big Horse Hay, LLC
- 34. Bloom Living of Olathe
- 35. Blue Dot Services
- 36. Bob Bergkamp Construction Co.
- 37. Braley Construction
- 38. BRB Contractors
- 39. Breathe Oxygen & Medical Supply
- 40. Bridges Inc.
- 41. Builders Choice Aggregates
- 42. Buildex, LLC
- 43. Capital III
- 44. Capital Trucking, LLC
- 45. Capitol City Office Products, Inc.
- 46. Caregivers Home Care
- 47. Caregivers Home Health
- 48. Caregivers of Garden City
- 49. Cashco, Inc.
- 50. Center Industries
- 51. Central Mechanical Wichita
- 52. Chance Rides
- 53. Charles Engineering
- 54. Cheers Liquor

- 55. Comfort Suites
- 56. Congregation of St. Joseph/Mount St. Mary
- 57. Coreslab Structures (Kansas) Inc.
- 58. Cornejo and Sons
- 59. Countryside Health Center
- 60. Crossland Construction
- 61. Crossland Heavy Contractors
- 62. Crossland Prefab
- 63. Curbs Plus
- 64. Deason Aircraft Services, Inc.
- 65. Decker & Mattison Co., Inc.
- 66. Desoto Chamber of Commerce*
- 67. Disability Supports
- 68. Eaglecrest Assisted Living
- 69. Ebert Construction Co., Inc.
- 70. Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc.
- 71. Emporia Hotels
- 72. Equity Bank
- 73. Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.
- 74. ESB Financial
- 75. Excel Industries
- 76. Executive Advisors LLC
- 77. Fairways of Ironhorse
- 78. Farrar Corporation
- 79. Florence Corporation
- 80. Fuel True
- 81. Fulks Lawn & Landscape
- 82. Gill Studios
- 83. Grain Belt Supply Co., Inc.
- 84. Great Plains
- 85. Greatlife Golf & Fitness
- 86. Gregory Inc.
- 87. Guardian Property Management
- 88. Gyroville Topeka
- 89. Hall Brothers Construction Co., Inc.
- 90. Halstead Health and Rehab Center
- 91. Hamm, Inc.
- 92. Hampton Inn & Conference Center
- 93. Hannebaum Grain Company
- 94. Harper County
- 95. Harshman Construction LLC
- 96. Heartland Cardiology, LLC
- 97. Heartland Seating, Inc.
- 98. Hemslöjd
- 99. Highland's Livestock Service
- 100. Hi-Lo Industries, D.B.A. Bridgewood Cabinets
- 101. Hi-Tech Interiors
- 102. Holiday Healthcare
- 103. Holiday Resort of Salina
- 104. Holliday Sand & Stone Company
- 105. Home Safe Hearth & Chimney, Inc.
- 106. Homestead Estates Wichita
- 107. Homestead of Auburn
- 108. Homestead of Augusta
- 109. Homestead of Crestview
- 110. Homestead of Derby
- 111. Homestead of El Dorado
- 112. Homestead of Garden City
- 113. Homestead of Halstead
- 114. Homestead of Hays
- 115. Homestead of Leavenworth
- 116. Homestead of Leawood
- 117. Homestead of Lenexa
- 118. Homestead of Manhattan
- 119. Homestead of Olathe
- 120. Homestead of Olathe
- 121. Homestead of Overland Park
- 122. Homestead of Russell
- 123. Homestead of Shawnee
- 124. Homestead of Topeka
- 125. Homestead of Wichita
- 126. Horizon Trails
- 127. Integrity Midwest Insurance, LLC
- 128. INTRUST Bank Arena
- 129. iSi Environmental
- 130. Issa
- 131. Jackson's Greenhouse and Garden Center
- 132. Jetz Service
- 133. Johnson County Aggregates
- 134. JR Custom Metal Products, Inc.
- 135. Kansan Towers
- 136. Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
- 137. Kansas Asphalt Pavement Association
- 138. Kansas Bankers Association
- 139. Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association
- 140. Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- 141. Kansas Chapter Society of Human Resource Management
- 142. Kansas Contractors Association
- 143. Kansas Farm Bureau
- 144. Kansas Fiber Net
- 145. Kansas Grain and Feed Association
- 146. Kansas Livestock Association
- 147. Kansas Manufactured Housing Association
- 148. Kansas Manufacturing Council
- 149. Kansas Nephrology Physicians PA
- 150. Kansas Policy Institute
- 151. Kansas Preferred Ins. Group
- 152. Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association
- 153. Kansas Retail Council
- 154. Kansas Surgical Consultants
- 155. KAPA-KRMCA
- 156. Kelly House of Meriden
- 157. Kelly House of Topeka
- 158. Key Staffing
- 159. King Construction Co., Inc.

160.Klaver Construction Company, Inc.
161.Klotz Sand Co., Inc.
162.Kocher-Beck
163.Koss Construction
164.LaQuinta Inn And Suites Olathe
165.Leawood Chamber of Commerce*
166.Lenexa Chamber of Commerce
167.Leon's Welding & Fabrication, LLC
168.Lewis Street Glass
169.Lexington Park Assisted Living Facility
170.Lexington Park Health & Rehab Facility
171.Lexington Park Independent Living
172.Long Motor
173.Lowen Industry
174.LSI Staffing
175.Lubrication Engineers
176.Mahaney Group
177.Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
178.Martin Outdoor Enterprises, Inc.
179.Martin-Smith Personnel Services, Inc.
180.McFarlane Aviation Products
181.McPherson Concrete Products, Inc.
182.Meadowlark
183.Metal-Fab, Inc.
184.Metro Courier, Inc.
185.Mid-States Materials, LLC
186.Midwest Concrete Materials (MCM)
187.Midwest Health
188.Midwest Health Inc (included in the original list)
189.Midwest Minerals, Inc.
190.Millennium Machine and Tool, Inc.
191.MJE Livestock Equipment
192.MJE, LLC
193.MO/KS Chapter, American Concrete Pavement Association
194.National Federation of Independent Business
195.NewDays LLC
196.Norfolk Iron and Metal
197.Office Plus of Kansas
198.Olathe Chamber of Commerce
199.Osborn Industry
200.Outdoor Powersports
201.Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
202.Pearson Construction LLC
203.Peterson Holdings, LLC
204.Phenix Label
205.Phillips Southern Electric, Inc.
206.Pioneer Ridge Assisted Living
207.Pioneer Ridge Health & Rehab
208.Pioneer Ridge Independent Living
209.PPI, LLC
210.PrairieStar Health system
211.Premier Employment Solutions
212.Prestressed Concrete Construction
213.Pretech Corp
214.Progressive Ag Cooperative
215.Quality Inn
216.Rainbow Telephone
217.Ranch House Senior Living
218.Rawlins County Health Center
219.RD Johnson Excavating Company
220.Reece Construction Co., Inc.
221.Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
222.Rolling Hills Assisted Living
223.Rolling Hills Health Center
224.Russell Refrigeration
225.RV Products- a Division of Airxcel
226.Salina Planning Mill, Inc.
227.Salisbury Supply Co., Inc.
228.Sauder Custom Fabrication, Inc.
229.Schenck Processing
230.Scott Rice Office Interiors
231.SDK Laboratories, Inc.
232.Senior Rx Care Pharmacy
233.Sharpline Converting, Inc.
234.Shawnee Chamber of Commerce
235.Sherwood Construction Co., Inc.
236.Shilling Construction Co.
237.Smoky Hill, L.L.C.
238.Smoots Creek, LLC
239.Specs Wichita, LLC
240.Sports Connection
241.Spray Equipment
242.Springhill Chamber of Commerce*
243.State Farm Insurance- Herchel Crainer Agency
244.Stoneybrook Assisted Living
245.Stoneybrook Health & Rehab Facility
246.Sunbelt-Solomon Solution
247.Super 8 Lenexa
248.Surestay Hotel by Best Western Ottawa
249.Tank Connection
250.The Arnold Group
251.The Bradbury Co., Inc.
252.The LDF Companies
253.The Mercantile on Main
254.Thomas D. Harris Attorney at Law
255.Top Notch Personnel, Inc.
256.Topeka Management, Inc.
257.Transitions Group
258.Travel Association of Kansas
259.Tuttle Agency- Farm Bureau Financial Services
260.Twin Oaks Assisted Living
261.Twin Oaks Health and Rehab
262.Twin Oaks Independent Living
263.Universal Products, Inc
264.Valley Health Care Center

265.Venture Corporation
266.Vornado Air, LLC
267.Vortex Companies
268.Wade Ventures, LLC
269.Western Industries Plastic Products, Inc.

270.Western Prairie Senior Living
271.Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
272.Wildcat Construction Co., Inc.
273.Wilson Building Maintenance, Inc.
274.Woodwork Manufacturing & Supply

*Denotes an organization who signed on to the original letter and was inadvertently not listed.