



March 4, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier  
Vice Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Klausmeier,

I would like to express my full support for *Senate Bill 234 – Unemployment Insurance – Work Search Requirement – Exemption for Federal Civilian Employees During a Federal Government Shutdown*.

Federal Civilian Employees are the backbone of Maryland's workforce. There are around 140,000 employees in Maryland. Currently, furloughed federal civilian employees can apply for Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) benefits during a partial or full government shutdown. UCFE has the same work search requirements as Maryland unemployment insurance. This requirement is troublesome for federal employees because they are still employed by their federal agency and will return to work once government funding is restored.

Maryland law as it stands allows the Maryland Secretary of Labor to exempt certain claimants of Unemployment Insurance from certain requirements. SB234 will include furloughed federal civilian employees in that group of claimants and allow the Secretary of Labor to waive them from the work search requirement to receive unemployment benefits. Additionally, this bill will ease the administrative burden on the Maryland Department of Labor and allow civilian federal employee claimants to receive benefits quicker. The Maryland Department of Labor does not foresee any impact on expenditures or revenues if this bill is enacted into law.

I strongly urge this committee to give *Senate Bill 234 – Unemployment Insurance – Work Search Requirement – Exemption for Federal Civilian Employees During a Federal Government Shutdown* a favorable review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone  
Member of Congress