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February 8, 2022

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB0004 – Unemployment Insurance – Recovery of Benefits – Refund of Payments –  
**Support**

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The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB4. If passed, Del. Watson's prefiled bill will take effect on October 1, 2022.

House Bill 4 seeks to enact a common-sense solution to the problem of excessive claw backs of unemployment insurance benefits collected by the Department of Labor. It requires the Secretary to investigate any claimant's notice that the actual amount recovered (through a claw-back) exceeded the amount stated. It provides the Secretary of Labor 30 days to investigate these claims and requires the Secretary to refund any excessive recoveries to the claimant within 14 days of the investigation's conclusion. As a matter of fundamental fairness and good public policy, the Department of Labor should not be able to retain funds due and owing to a claimant.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 4.

cc: Committee Members