



Congress of the United States
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The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Brian Crosby
Vice Chair, Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby,

I am writing today to express my full support for *House Bill 554 - Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2025*.

This bill is essential to address the financial hardships faced by Maryland residents who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The economic strain that accompanies such a loss can be devastating, not only for the individuals affected but also for their families. I fear that this will become a larger issue in the coming months, as the current Administration works towards terminating a large part of the federal workforce; many of whom reside in Maryland. Unfortunately, the current unemployment benefits fall far short of the state's minimum wage, leaving many workers struggling to meet even their most basic living expenses.

Increasing unemployment benefits is not solely about providing temporary relief, but rather about ensuring that families can pay their bills, secure adequate nutrition, and maintain stability while seeking new employment opportunities. It has been since 2010 that the maximum weekly payment for Unemployment Insurance has been updated. Since then, Maryland has gone through monumental economic change; from the recovery from a recession, to the pandemic and the resulting inflation of the past few years. The current calculations for weekly payments of unemployment benefits, which may have been more than adequate in 2010 when they were set, have simply not kept up with the cost of living in Maryland.

It is far past time that we take a common sense approach to updating the Unemployment Insurance system to better reflect our current environment. For this reason, I strongly urge this committee to give *House Bill 554 - Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2025* the highest consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April McClain Delaney", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress