

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2021

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

We write to you today to express our serious concerns regarding Michigan's workforce crisis. The April jobs report indicates a significant labor supply shortage, a complaint we hear from businesses across our districts daily. With only 266,000 new jobs added last month, it is abundantly clear that employers are struggling to find workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for our economy and subjected our workforce to dramatic changes. Today, however, vaccination rates continue to rise, COVID-19 positive cases continue to drop, and Michigan is making significant strides towards a return to normal life. On Monday, May 10, the state hit a critical milestone: 55% of Michiganders 16 and older have received one dose of the vaccine.

In accordance with your guidelines for the state, this development allows in-person work to resume for all sectors of business within two weeks' time. Michigan has taken strong steps to combat the pandemic, but continued participation in the emergency federal increase in unemployment compensation benefits is exacerbating the labor supply shortage and hindering our economic recovery. Today, we call on you to end participation in this program to get our state's economy back on track and ensure our employers have access to the talent they need to return to normal.

We all agree that the federal supplemental benefits served a purpose when businesses were forced to close in response to the public health crisis, but now, as the seven-day average of positive cases continues a three-week decline and hospitalization rates remain low, businesses both can and want to reopen, and employees can and should return to work. Unfortunately, these benefits remain so robust that employees are more incentivized to stay home and collect unemployment than to go back to work. A decision to end Michigan's participation in the federal supplemental unemployment insurance benefits program, an action that several other states have taken, will ensure a faster economic recovery for Michigan, its employers, and individuals across

the state. We ask that you take strong action on this issue as we continue to support Michigan's employers so our communities may prosper once again.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Peter Meijer in blue ink.

Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jack Bergman in blue ink.

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Bill Huizenga in blue ink.

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Lisa McClain in blue ink.

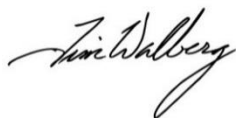
Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of John Moolenaar in blue ink.

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Fred Upton in blue ink.

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Tim Walberg in blue ink.

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress