

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Coronavirus Aid and Relief Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020, creates a pathway for previously ineligible self-employed workers to now receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance as well as the \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefit. However, states must first take action to enter into an agreement with the Department of Labor to provide this assistance.

As Members of Congress we write to urge you to expeditiously enter into an agreement with the Department of Labor, and do whatever else is necessary, to ensure self-employed workers and independent contractors are able to access the unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act.

We appreciate your recent decision to waive the burdensome requirement for applicants to demonstrate an active job search amid this COVID-19-related surge in unemployment benefit requests. We also appreciate the Department of Economic Opportunity's pledge to work with you to waive the one week waiting period and to fix the confusing and unresponsive online application process.

Thank you for your time and efforts during this crisis. Our offices stand ready to assist as needed.

Sincerely,



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress

/s/

KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress

VAL DEMINGS
Member of Congress

TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

AL LAWSON
Member of Congress

DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

DONNA SHALALA
Member of Congress

DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

FREDERICA WILSON
Member of Congress