

Comment Report

SSB 1172

A bill for an act relating to unemployment insurance and including applicability provisions.(See SF 492.)

Subcommittee Members: Schultz-CH, Boulton, Dickey

Date: 02/18/2021

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 217 Conference Room

Name: RANDY TUCKER

Comment: I have been looking at this bill and wonder why it was even written. It is as if our legislators asked "how can we make it harder on working families in Iowa?" Well it seems that the answer is to attack individuals who have recently lost their job. I can only assume that is the answer, because why would you take away your first week of unemployment? Why would you give people with more dependents less money? Why would you reduce the amount of time you can find a new career when your facility closes? I will save you lots of work. Kill this bill and move on to something that actually helps Iowans.

Name: Jamey Weinreich

Comment: Please dont make things harder on working families I believe this is an absolutely terrible idea at a time when people need it the most

Name: Joanie Shevel

Comment: The fact that this is even being considered during the time of a Pandemic will speak volumes to the people you serve.

Name: Drake Custer

Comment: During 20102011 in Keokuk, Iowa, 237 employees were locked out of work by Roquette America over a contract dispute. That lockout lasted 10 and a half months. In a town of about 10,000 people, 237 people immediately shifting from decent jobs to the unemployment line was a shock for the community and the economy. It forced families to make choices in the name of survival versus enjoyment or prosperity. It put a strain on the other local businesses as people did not shop, dine out, or buy groceries like they did before. Many employees could not afford to continue health insurance, let alone support businesses on Main Street. This was life in Keokuk WITH unemployment benefits. I cannot imagine how much worse it may have been if those benefits had been ripped away for no good reason. That kind of mass unemployment is the same as seeing a business close, leaving employees on reduced income while they find a way to survive. Cutting 13 weeks of benefits from families that are already reeling from a business closing is truly kicking someone when they are down. Taking away unemployment benefits will not magically will them into prosperity. It will not magically make jobs available for them to take. It will do nothing except further depress a town's economy, and force people to either collectively lower their quality of life or choose to relocate to a state and area with more opportunity.

Name:

Carrie Duncan

Comment:

I am speaking out of concern about this atrocity, of SSB1172 wanting to make it more of a financial burden, on Iowa Working Class citizens and their families, when there comes a time that they are in need of filing for unemployment benefits in the state of Iowa. Let me give two recent examples: Last week at our facility there were approximately 85 to 90 operators that were in need of filing for one week of unemployment, due to an unexpected issue that arose on the one line, at no fault of the workers, so our company could not fulfill the promise of a 40 hour work week. These are my coworkers, many that have families at home to financially support, as the bills continue to come regardless, and now the state wants to impose further duress on hard working Iowan's by further delaying them their check, due to a 10 day waiting period? What about the coworker that just lost his wife to cancer, and has endured the grief of loss, and now he has to be concerned with added anguish to wait longer, for financial compensation to cover funeral expenses? I ask you Why? Why would we even put our hard working Iowan's in this position? Last example: A manufacturing company here in Burlington, Iowa (ABB) announced before Christmas, that they would be closing out the plant in the Spring of 2021. This affects approximately 400 workers. There will be a lot of these employees counting on the financial assistance of Iowa Unemployment Funds, until they can find another job. This factory closing will have a direct impact on our local economy. These workers have already been promised that they can use the allotted time to collect unemployment benefits, for more than 26 weeks, and now this preposterous notion of lowering the weeks of eligibility is a complete travesty to working Iowan's! I implore you, to stop and think about the impact these changes would have on working class Iowan's and their families. These are Iowan's that are counting on their elected legislators to do not only what is "Necessary," in providing beneficial unemployment availability to benefit them and their families through difficult financial times, but to do what is "Just and Right," for "All" of our working class Iowan's.

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