

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Act to amend the requirements related to unemployment to include employees of the federal government who are required to work without pay during a federal government shutdown as individuals eligible for unemployment benefits.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Supporting Essential Workers Unemployment Insurance Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) The federal government was partially shut down for over a month due to President Trump’s demand for funding in excess of \$5 billion to build a wall at the southern border of the United States.

(b) Despite a majority of Americans’ opposition to funding the construction of the proposed wall, the President refused to sign legislation to fund the federal government unless it included full funding for the wall.

(c) As a result of the President’s position, the federal government was partially closed, and over 800,000 federal employees did not receive pay.

34 (d) Federal employees who are deemed essential and are required to continue work
35 during a shutdown are not eligible for unemployment benefits, even though they are not
36 receiving their pay during the shutdown.

37 (e) The shutdown caused extreme financial hardship for federal employees, their families,
38 and the service providers, including daycare providers, they regularly use, especially for those
39 federal employees who are required to continue working without compensation.

40 (f) Although the federal government is now open, it is operating under a continuing
41 resolution that expires on February 15, 2019, another shutdown is possible at that point.

42 (g) If another shutdown occurs, federal employee who are required to work during the
43 shutdown will again face extreme financial hardship.

44 (f) The provision of unemployment compensation to these employees during a shutdown
45 will ease the burden on the employees and help enable them to meet their families' basic needs.

46 (g) Immediate legislative action is necessary to be able to provide important financial
47 relief during a shutdown to essential federal employees.

48 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
49 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
50 Supporting Essential Workers Unemployment Insurance Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be
51 adopted after a single reading.

52 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.