

Council of the District of Columbia
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ELISSA SILVERMAN
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Councilmember Elissa Silverman

RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the January 5, 2021 Legislative Meeting

DATE: December 30, 2020



Congressional Review Emergency Legislation

I request that the following congressional review emergency measures be agendized for the January 5, 2021, Legislative Meeting:

- **“Unemployment Benefits Extension Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”**
- **“Unemployment Benefits Extension Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution Act of 2021”**

This legislation would amend, amend, on an emergency basis, the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Act to qualify District workers for additional weeks of unemployment insurance and pandemic unemployment assistance benefits under the extended benefits program.

Emergency legislation is necessary to prevent a gap in the law as: (1) the previously approved Unemployment Benefits Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 is set to expire on Jan. 26, 2021, (2) the corresponding temporary legislation, passed on November 10, 2020, and signed by the Mayor on December 7, 2020, has not yet been transmitted to Congress due to the end of the congressional session, and (3) the corresponding permanent legislation, passed on 2nd reading on December 15, 2020, was transmitted to the Mayor on December 29, 2020, and is under mayoral review.

The legislation establishes important access for District workers to additional weeks of unemployment insurance under the Extended Benefits program when the District’s unemployment rate meets the required threshold and full federal funding is available.

- **“Protecting Businesses and Workers from COVID-19 Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”**
- **“Protecting Businesses and Workers from COVID-19 Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution Act of 2021”**

This legislation would require, on an emergency basis, that employers adopt and implement policies that adhere to Mayor’s Order 2020-080 or subsequent Mayor’s Order that require the wearing of face masks, and to prohibit retaliation against an employee who refuses to work with

or serve an individual who refuses to comply with Mayor's Order 2020-080 or subsequent Mayor's Order, or for other reasons.

Emergency legislation is necessary to prevent a gap in the law as the: (1) the previously approved Protecting Businesses and Workers from COVID-19 Congressional Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, applicable November 10, 2020, is set to expire on February 13, 2021; and (2) the corresponding temporary legislation, the Protecting Businesses and Workers from COVID-19 Temporary Amendment Act of 2020, passed on 2nd reading on September 22, 2020 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-871) was transmitted to Congress on November 5, 2020, and is currently under congressional review.

The emergency Act created important COVID-19-related workers' rights, protections against retaliation if they take steps to protect their health and safety, and enforcement mechanisms; and it authorized additional resources for businesses to purchase personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 public health emergency

Please contact Liz Weiss, Committee Director, at lweiss@dccouncil.us or (202) 727-1974 if you have any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Budget Director
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs