



225 State Street
Ste B
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-232-8582
NFIB.com

May 20, 2021

Hon. Tom Wolf
Governor – Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Eliminating federal unemployment compensation in exchange for a ‘return-to-work incentive’.

Governor Wolf:

Businesses throughout the Commonwealth all have one thing in common: They cannot find qualified employees to fill vacant and available positions. According to the National Federation of Independent Business’ (NFIB) Research Center, which recently released its April jobs report, a record 44% of all small business owners report having job openings they could not fill. April is the third consecutive month with a record-high reading of unfilled job [openings](#).

NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg was recently quoted, as saying, “Small business owners are seeing a growth in sales but are stunted by not having enough workers. Finding qualified employees remains the biggest challenge for small businesses and is slowing economic growth.”

While the restrictions on businesses, put in place by the executive branch, are coming to an end, there remains one central theme as to why workers are resistant to return to the workforce: **They are making equal, or in some cases more, money receiving unemployment compensation than they would if they had returned to gainful employment.**

States across the nation are taking significant proactive steps to address workforce shortages, primarily by eliminating the added financial incentive to remain unemployed.

Pennsylvania should follow suit by responsibly phasing out the Commonwealth’s participation in federal unemployment programs that are paying unemployed claimants an additional \$300 per week and consider providing return-to-work incentives for those who accept and maintain gainful employment.

A labor shortage does not affect business owners alone, but also current employees who are forced to work longer shifts, provide a greater number of services to more customers, and take on

additional duties. These individuals, who returned to the workforce, or never left, are the employees that are bearing the brunt of the labor shortage and the lack of incentive for others to return.

Pennsylvania is open for business again. Please take the necessary steps to return the Commonwealth's workforce to gainful employment and ensure our economic recovery is driven by small business and local job creation.

Sincerely,

Gregory Moreland
Pennsylvania State Director (NFIB)