

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 1763

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 10, 2021

Mrs. Murphy of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

- To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.
 - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
 - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
 - 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
 - 4 This Act may be cited as the "Building on Reemploy-
 - 5 ment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for
 - 6 Workers Act" or the "BRIDGE for Workers Act".
 - 7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
 - 8 Congress finds the following:

- (1) The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) improved program accountability for effectively serving unemployed workers and made a significant new investment in reemployment services.
 - (2) Research shows the longer workers are out of work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills, professional network, and stable home life.
 - (3) Reemployment services give workers who might otherwise struggle to find new jobs the tools that they need to get back to work—such as individualized career counseling and job search help as well as local labor market information—and they can serve as an entry point to the workforce development system.
 - (4) Reemployment services have been demonstrated to reduce the number of weeks that program participants receive unemployment benefits by improving their employment outcomes, including earnings.
 - (5) State unemployment benefits replace less than half of working income, on average, so workers who find new jobs quickly suffer less financial hardship.
 - (6) Combining targeted reemployment services with unemployment benefits helps keep people at-

- tached to the labor force who might otherwise become discouraged and drop out.
- The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, over time, investments in reemployment services create savings for taxpayers and unemployment trust funds by reducing spending on unemployment benefits.
- 8 (8) Many different types of workers can benefit 9 from reemployment services. Reemployment services 10 should be used to shorten the duration of unemploy-11 ment for workers even if they are not projected to 12 fully exhaust their unemployment benefits.

13 SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

- Section 306(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
- 15 506(a)) is amended—
- 16 (1) by striking "individuals referred to reem17 ployment services as described in section 303(j)"
 18 and inserting "claimants for unemployment com19 pensation, including claimants referred to reemploy20 ment services as described in section 303(j),"; and
- 21 (2) by striking "such individuals" and inserting 22 "such claimants".