

By: Representative Crawford

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES IN THIS STATE THAT ARE HIRING;
AND TO INCENTIVIZE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE TO ENTER
THE WORKFORCE OR RETURN TO THE WORKFORCE.

Subtitle

TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES IN THIS STATE THAT
ARE HIRING; AND TO INCENTIVIZE CITIZENS
OF THIS STATE TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE OR
RETURN TO THE WORKFORCE.

WHEREAS, as the economy begins to reopen post-coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), it is imperative that the State of Arkansas supports its businesses during this opportunity for rejuvenation, growth, and even expansion; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish this, the State of Arkansas should support businesses that are hiring, either through direct support or by comparable means, and provide support to an individual entering or returning to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, this support to an individual might include a return-to-work stimulus, transportation assistance, child-care assistance, other temporary employment incentives, and job-related reimbursements that are wide in scope; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to combat the growing trend of long-term unemployment ("LTU"); and



WHEREAS, thousands of citizens of this state are now designated as long-term unemployed; and

WHEREAS, allowing this trend of long-term unemployment to continue is not in the best interests of this state or the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, long-term unemployment has economic, social, and familial consequences that impact every Arkansan from their local neighborhoods to the State of Arkansas as a whole; and

WHEREAS, currently, the State of Arkansas has thousands of unemployed Arkansans while employers across this state are having difficulty hiring the workforce they need to operate their businesses; and

WHEREAS, as companies and businesses struggle to hire an adequate workforce to meet demand, businesses will continue to find ways to fulfill their customers' demands by circumventing the need for hiring workers; and

WHEREAS, these solutions not only eliminate existing job opportunities but impede future blue-collar job creation in this state; and

WHEREAS, if a blue-collar job is eliminated by increased efficiency, new technology, improved machinery, or automation, it is true that new jobs are also created. However, blue-collar workers who have suffered job losses are less likely to be retrained successfully into these newly created job opportunities. These newly created jobs demand a different temperament, skill set, training, and often an overall way of thinking; and

WHEREAS, this dynamic increases the skills gap and earnings gap while accelerating the premature workforce exodus of an entire sector of blue-collar workers; and

WHEREAS, it is paramount that the State of Arkansas supports businesses in their hiring efforts and that the State of Arkansas supports individuals in their efforts to return to work; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas cannot continue to allow individuals to remain out of the workforce any longer and cannot financially incentivize economic inactivity or the states risks losing thousands of people from the workforce of the State of Arkansas permanently; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should incentivize economic activity;
and

WHEREAS, if the State of Arkansas fails to incentivize economic activity in this state, the damage that will be done to this state will be irreparable and it is the citizens of this state who stand to suffer the most,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives support businesses in this state that are hiring and recognize the need to incentivize citizens of this state to enter the workforce or return to the workforce.