

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1041

4
5 By: Representative Crawford

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

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

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13 **Subtitle**

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

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20 WHEREAS, as the economy begins to reopen post-coronavirus 2019 (COVID-
21 19), it is imperative that the State of Arkansas supports its businesses
22 during this opportunity for rejuvenation, growth, and even expansion; and
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24 WHEREAS, to accomplish this, the State of Arkansas should support
25 businesses that are hiring, either through direct support or by comparable
26 means, and provide support to an individual entering or returning to the
27 workforce; and
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29 WHEREAS, this support to an individual might include a return-to-work
30 stimulus, transportation assistance, child-care assistance, other temporary
31 employment incentives, and job-related reimbursements that are wide in scope;
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34 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to combat the growing trend of
35 long-term unemployment ("LTU"); and
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1 WHEREAS, thousands of citizens of this state are now designated as
2 long-term unemployed; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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14 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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