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Councilmember Elissa Silverman

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency, due to congressional review, with respect to the need to amend, 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.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Unemployment Benefits Extension Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) On October 20, 2020, the Council passed the Unemployment Benefits Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective October 29, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-0435; 67 DCR 9870) (“Emergency Act”), which is set to expire on January 26, 2021. The emergency Act allows District workers to access additional weeks of unemployment insurance benefits when the District’s unemployment rate meets the required threshold and full federal funding is available.

(b) On November 10, 2020, the Council passed the Unemployment Benefits Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2020, passed on 2nd reading on November 10, 2020 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-984), which the Mayor signed on December 7, 2020.

1 The bill has not yet been transmitted to Congress for review due to the end of the  
2 congressional session, and therefore the temporary legislation is not yet effective.

3 (c) On December 15, 2020, the Council passed the Unemployment Benefits  
4 Extension Amendment Act of 2020, passed on 2nd reading on December 15, 2020  
5 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-985), which was transmitted to the Mayor on December 29,  
6 2020, and is under mayoral review.

7 (d) In order to prevent a gap in the law between the expiration of the Emergency  
8 Act and the effective date of the temporary legislation, it is necessary to approve  
9 congressional review emergency legislation.

10 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
11 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
12 Unemployment Benefits Extension Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act  
13 of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

14 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.