



July 31, 2020

Dear member of the United States Congress,

Representing the Hispanic Community of Florida, we are directing this letter in order to make a call for a sense of urgency, as we are currently living unprecedented times in many aspects of our society. The current health situation has affected all aspects of society worldwide, mainly the social economy, which depends on the investment of the working group. Aid from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Unemployment Insurance, which was passed under the CARES Act by Congress and signed by the President of the United States, has been vital to the millions of newly unemployed Americans who have remained out of work as a result of economic destruction caused by coronavirus

So far, more than 21 million US citizens have applied for unemployment benefits in the hope of being able to support their families in this unfortunate event. We are several days away from the unemployment benefit being cut to more than 70%; Such a reduction would cause leaving many families on the verge of losing their homes and causing a reduction in their income of more than 50 percent. That's a pretty devastating cut for families already leaning toward low income to begin with.

In Florida, we face a problem of high rents which for some families is impossible to pay. Imagine losing your job and in addition a cut to financial aid. Due to this, many families would be left on the streets making one of the most lucrative states for tourism one full of homeless families. Florida is one of the most recognized countries worldwide for its hospitality where the Hispanic community has an extremely important role.

Every Hispanic family comes with the illusion of fighting and working for the American dream. Due to the current pandemic, the same congress that opens the doors to all Hispanics to work is removing the only income that many have under these circumstances. In addition, we are back to school season and some schools will be receiving their students. How can the families who were affected by layoffs provide for their children to return to class?

It is time to stand on the right side of history and exercising the function of congress as public servants, defending and ensuring every good citizen receives the basic necessities to live a good quality of life. In difficult times it is where we must unite as a society and work for the common good, country over any party. It is time to act boldly.

In resistance and resolve,

Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Orange County Florida

Mel Lopez - President & Board Members

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