



Office of the Majority Leader
North Carolina House of Representatives

JOHN R. BELL, IV
10TH DISTRICT

May 21, 2021

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

With your recently announced decision to end COVID-19 restrictions on businesses, particularly with the hospitality industry, we are writing to strongly urge you to reinstate unemployment work search requirements.

While your March 1, 2021 executive order did reinstate this requirement for "new claimants," it should also be extended to all individuals currently receiving unemployment benefits.

The North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA) reports that restaurants in North Carolina are down about 70,000 workers—roughly 17% of the industry's workforce—compared to before the pandemic.

Furthermore, there are 250,000 people in North Carolina currently receiving unemployment benefits each week, according to the state Department of Commerce. Yet, North Carolina's workforce system, NCWorks, lists over 200,000 current job openings in the state, and this does not include every opening since not all employers utilize the system.

In our districts, we continue to hear from small business owners who are unable to fill new jobs. We believe reinstating work search requirements is a common-sense step to help connect the unemployed with new job opportunities.

With our state now fully reopened, it is imperative that we encourage North Carolinians to explore current job openings and utilize reemployment resources. This will help the unemployed while addressing the growing number of job openings across the state that are not being filled.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John R. Bell, IV.

Majority Leader John Bell

Handwritten signature of Kristin Baker.

Rep. Kristin Baker, M.D.

Handwritten signature of John Bradford.

Rep. John Bradford

Handwritten signature of Dean Arp.

Rep. Dean Arp

Handwritten signature of Jamie Boles.

Rep. Jamie Boles

Handwritten signature of Mark Brody.

Rep. Mark Brody



Rep. Dana Bumgardner



Rep. Jerry Carter



Rep. Mike Clappitt



Rep. George Cleveland



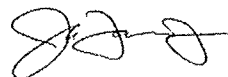
Rep. Ted Davis



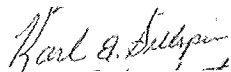
Rep. Jimmy Dixon



Rep. Jeffrey Elmore



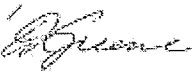
Rep. John Faircloth



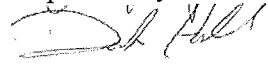
Rep. Karl Gillespie



Rep. Ed Goodwin



Rep. Dudley Greene



Rep. Destin Hall



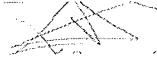
Rep. Kyle Hall



Rep. Bobby Hanig



Rep. Jon Hardister



Rep. Kelly Hastings



Rep. Chris Humphrey



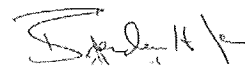
Rep. Pat Hurley




Rep. Frank Iler



Rep. Jake Johnson



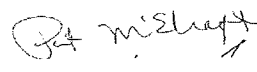
Rep. Brenden Jones



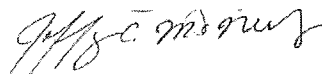
Rep. Keith Kidwell



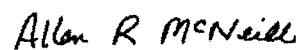
Rep. Donny Lambeth



Rep. Pat McElraft



Rep. Jeffrey McNeely



Rep. Allen McNeill



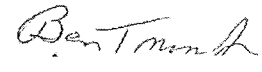
Rep. Charlie Miller



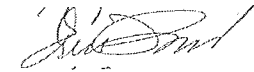
Rep. Grey Mills



Rep. Tim Moffitt



Rep. Ben Moss



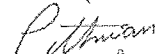
Rep. Erin Paré



Rep. Howard Penny



Rep. Ray Pickett



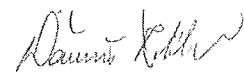
Rep. Larry Pittman



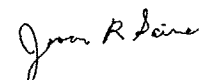
Rep. Mark Pless



Rep. Larry Potts



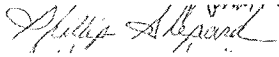
Rep. Dennis Riddell



Rep. Jason Saine



Rep. John Sauls



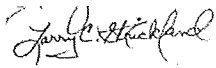
Rep. Phil Shepard



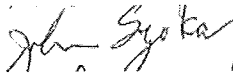
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Rep. Larry Strickland




Rep. John Szoka



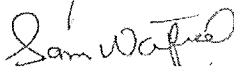
Rep. John Torbett



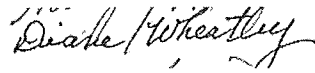
Rep. Steve Tyson



Rep. Harry Warren



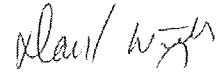
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Rep. Diane Wheatley



Rep. Donna McDowell
White



Rep. David Willis



Rep. Matthew Winslow



Rep. Larry Yarborough



Rep. Lee Zachary



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