

By: Rodriguez

H.C.R. No. 76

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Over the past year, more than 2 million Texans have  
2 applied for unemployment compensation benefits as the COVID-19  
3 pandemic caused unprecedented displacement, layoffs, and  
4 furloughs; and

5 WHEREAS, The Unemployment Compensation program was designed  
6 to help jobless Americans during economic downturns; administered  
7 jointly by the state and federal governments, the program is funded  
8 through reserve and surplus funds, which are financed through  
9 payroll taxes under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act and the State  
10 Unemployment Tax Acts; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2020, Texas depleted its unemployment insurance  
12 trust fund to below the minimum level required to maintain  
13 solvency; in order to avoid raising unemployment insurance taxes on  
14 businesses, Texas must borrow funds from the federal Unemployment  
15 Trust Fund; as of March 2, 2021, the State of Texas' outstanding  
16 loan balance stands at \$6.5 billion; and

17 WHEREAS, Fortunately, the Families First Coronavirus  
18 Response Act provided states a temporary waiver of interest  
19 payments and suspended the accrual of interest on federal advances  
20 to states; those provisions were extended by the American Rescue  
21 Plan Act, but these relief measures will expire in September 2021;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Without further assistance from the federal  
24 government, states such as Texas will be forced to replenish their

1 unemployment insurance trusts by raising business taxes, which  
2 would inhibit economic recovery and harm already struggling  
3 businesses and workers; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
5 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
6 provide financial assistance to the states' unemployment  
7 compensation programs; and, be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
9 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
10 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members  
12 of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this  
13 resolution be entered in the Congressional record as a memorial to  
14 the Congress of the United States of America.