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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

April 16, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine:

Thank you for your continued leadership during these unprecedented times. Your quick and bold actions have no doubt saved countless lives throughout the state of Ohio.

I write today on behalf of my constituents who are anxiously waiting on the implementation of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to get through this crisis. As you know, the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, expands eligibility to unemployment insurance for those who would not normally qualify. This includes self-employed individuals, independent contractors, “gig economy” employees, and individuals who were unable to start a new position/contract due to COVID-19. This ensures these individuals can access 39 weeks of benefits to weather the crisis.

On April 5th, 2020, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued guidance to states on how to implement this new program. Unfortunately, I understand this program will not be operational in Ohio until mid-May. I am cognizant of the challenges you and your staff are facing to implement a whole new program—and the many logistics this requires, especially in addition to other programs you are administering. But on behalf of my constituents depending on this, I want to express the urgency of this matter and to urge you to work expeditiously to make this relief available to Ohioans. Even though these benefits will be retroactive, some individuals may miss 2- or 3-months worth of bills before they see this money. We must do all we can to expedite these efforts, so these individuals can survive.

I know you are working tirelessly to help all Ohioans and am again grateful for your leadership. Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ryan".

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

CC: Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted