

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, Congress passed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act to help Americans and US businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, which included \$600 per week in addition to state unemployment aid for people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the additional \$600 payments are expected to expire July 31, 2020, even as many businesses remain shuttered and Americans continue to be out of work; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to spread rapidly across California, with more than 450,000 confirmed cases and more than 8,400 deaths – the 36 counties, including Los Angeles, that remain on Governor Newsom’s list of those subject to heightened observation, monitoring, and engagement with California Department of Public Health officials are home to 94 percent of the State’s population; and

WHEREAS, unemployment claims in California have climbed to their highest levels in nearly three months, with California workers filing 292,700 initial claims for unemployment benefits the week of July 13, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, adding to a total of roughly seven million first-time jobless claims that have been filed during the four months since state and local governments began to issue stay at home orders in March; and

WHEREAS, the \$600 per week emergency unemployment benefit has helped millions of workers keep paying their rent, write mortgage checks, make car payments, buy groceries, care for family members, and pay for other crucial expenses, including healthcare; and

WHEREAS, according to one analysis, eliminating the emergency benefit entirely could take as much as \$18 billion per week out of the consumer economy, or more than \$930 billion on an annual basis, at a time when the U.S. economy has technically entered a recession; and

WHEREAS, further analysis estimates that the full expiration of the \$600 per week emergency unemployment benefit would reduce gross domestic product by two percent by the end of 2020 – almost as much as the average GDP growth per year since 2016 – and result in 1.7 million fewer jobs by the end of the year than if it kept the stipend in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2020-2021 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislative action to extend the CARES Act’s \$600 per week emergency unemployment benefit.

PRESENTED BY: 
David E. Ryu
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: _____