

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Laura Kelly, Governor  
300 SW 10 Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly:

On behalf of the assigned coalition, we are reaching out today to express concerns we are hearing from employers of all sizes and from all industries about the lack of available workers in the state. As everyone looks to move past the COVID pandemic, the business community felt it was important to share what we believe would be positive solutions to help the state- for both the public and private sector.

Employers with temporary remote employees are slowly phasing-in the return of their workforce to the physical office. In addition, businesses who were forced to operate at reduced capacity are now unable to return to full capacity due to their inability to find and hire workers. While the state's unemployment rate is low, there are currently more than 57,000 job openings across the state according to indeed.com. The March 2021 labor report shows 58,468 individuals receiving unemployment insurance.

Our coalition would respectfully ask that the state end the additional UI federal benefits. We believe this additional benefit was an important short-term solution to help individuals who were adversely impacted at the start of the pandemic. However, 13 months later, many employers are finding it nearly impossible to fully staff their business which impacts the supply chain and timely delivery of goods and services.

We believe other barriers may exist for those reentering the workforce. We would advocate to redirect available federal dollars toward incentivizing return-to-work with a signing bonus program, temporary childcare assistance and training/retraining initiatives for Kansans who might have lost their jobs during the pandemic but have struggled to re-enter the workforce.

Below are the states that have currently opted out of the Federal UI benefits:

**June 12, 2021**

1. Alaska
2. Iowa
3. Mississippi
4. Missouri

**June 19, 2021**

5. Alabama
6. Idaho
7. Indiana
8. North Dakota
9. West Virginia
10. Wyoming

**June 26, 2021**

11. Arkansas

12. Georgia

13. Ohio

14. Oklahoma – also offering a one-time \$1,200 Return to Work bonus

15. South Dakota

16. Texas

17. Utah

**June 27, 2021**

18. Montana – also offering a one-time \$1,200 Return to Work bonus

**June 30, 2021**

19. South Carolina

**July 3, 2021**

20. Tennessee

21. Arizona – also offering a one-time  
\$2,000 Return to Work bonus

**July 10, 2021**

We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and the concerns of the Kansas business community and would welcome any opportunity to visit further with you on this important issue.

Thank you,

1. 3P Processing
2. 7 Yankee Run
3. Accessible Home Health
4. Adler Pelzer Group
5. ADM
6. Advance Property Management
7. Airbus Americas, Inc.
8. Allen Samuels CDJR
9. American Dish Service
10. American Fun Food Company, Inc.
11. Americans for Prosperity
12. APAC Shears
13. Arrowhead West, Inc.
14. ARTHUR-GREEN LLP
15. Associated General Contractors of Kansas
16. Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
17. AuBurn Pharmacy, Inc.
18. Auburn Washburn USD
19. Auspision, LLC
20. Avantic Lodging Enterprises
21. B & B Hydraulics, Inc.
22. Bankers Bank of Kansas
23. Bethany Village
24. Big Horse Hay, LLC
25. Blue Dot Services
26. BRB Contractors
27. Capital III
28. Capitol City Office Products, Inc.
29. Cashco, Inc.
30. Center Industries
31. Central Mechanical Wichita
32. Chance Rides
33. Charles Engineering
34. City of Fort Scott
35. Comfort Suites
36. Congregation of St. Joseph/Mount St. Mary
37. Cornejo and Sons
38. Crossland Construction
39. Crossland Heavy Contractors
40. Crossland Prefab
41. Curbs Plus
42. Disability Supports of the Great Plains, Inc.
43. Decker & Mattison Co., Inc.
44. Emporia Hotels
45. Equity Bank
46. ESB Financial
47. Excel Industries
48. Executive Advisors LLC
49. Farrar Corporation
50. Florence Corporation
51. Fulks Lawn & Landscape
52. Fuel True
53. Gill Studios
54. GraceMed Health Clinic
55. Grain Belt Supply Co., Inc.
56. Great Plains
57. Greater Wichita YMCA
58. Greatlife Golf & Fitness
59. Gregory Inc.
60. Guardian Property Management
61. Gyroville Topeka
62. Hampton Inn & Conference Center
63. Heartland Cardiology, LLC
64. Heartland Seating, Inc.
65. Hemslöjd
66. HF MIXING GROUP/HF Rubber Machinery, Inc.
67. Highland's Livestock Service
68. Hi-Lo Industries, D.B.A. Bridgewood Cabinets
69. Hi-Tech Interiors
70. Holiday Healthcare
71. Home Safe Hearth & Chimney, Inc.
72. Hutchinson Public Library
73. Integrity Midwest Insurance, LLC
74. Intrust Bank Arena
75. Issa Group
76. iSi Environmental
77. Jackson's Greenhouse and Garden Center
78. Jetz Service
79. JR Custom Metal Products, Inc.
80. Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
81. Kansas Bankers Association
82. Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association
83. Kansas Chamber of Commerce

84. Kansas Chapter Society of Human Resource Management
85. Kansas Farm Bureau
86. Kansas Fiber Net
87. Kansas Grain and Feed Association
88. Kansas Livestock Association
89. Kansas Manufactured Housing Association
90. Kansas Manufacturing Council
91. Kansas Nephrology Physicians PA
92. Kansas Policy Institute
93. Kansas Preferred Ins. Group
94. Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association
95. Kansas Retail Council
96. Kansas Surgical Consultants
97. Key Staffing
98. Kocher-Beck
99. LaQuinta Inn And Suites Olathe
100. Lawrence Journal-World
101. Lenexa Chamber
102. Leon's Welding & Fabrication, LLC
103. Lewis Street Glass
104. Long Motor Company
105. Lowen Industry
106. LSI Staffing
107. Lubrication Engineers
108. Mahaney Group
109. Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
110. Martin-Smith Personnel Services, Inc.
111. McFarlane Aviation Products
112. Meadowlark
113. Metal-Fab, Inc.
114. Metro Courier, Inc.
115. Midwest Concrete Materials (MCM)
116. Midwest Health
117. Millennium Machine and Tool, Inc.
118. Mosaic National Supports
119. National Federation of Independent Business
120. NewDays LLC
121. Norfolk Iron and Metal
122. Office Plus of Kansas
123. Olathe Chamber of Commerce
124. Osborn Industry
125. Outdoor Powersports
126. Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
127. Peterson Holdings, LLC
128. Phenix Label
129. PPI, LLC
130. PrairieStar Health Center
131. Prestressed Concrete Company
132. Pretech Corp
133. Progressive Ag Cooperative
134. Quality Inn
135. Rainbow Telephone
136. Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
137. Russell Refrigeration
138. RV Products- a Division of Airxcel
139. Salina Planning Mill, Inc.
140. Sauder Custom Fabrication, Inc.
141. Schenck Processing
142. Scott Rice Office Interiors
143. SDK Laboratories, Inc.
144. Sharpline Converting, Inc.
145. Shawnee Chamber of Commerce
146. Smoots Creek, LLC
147. Specs Wichita, LLC
148. Sports Connection
149. Spray Equipment
150. State Farm Insurance- Herchel Crainer Agency
151. Sunbelt-Solomon Solution
152. Super 8 Lenexa
153. Surestay Hotel by Best Western Ottawa
154. T & M Financial
155. Tandem Securities
156. Tank Connection
157. The Arnold Group
158. The Bradbury Co., Inc.
159. The LDF Companies
160. The Mercantile on Main
161. Thomas D. Harris Attorney at Law
162. TGC Group
163. Top Notch Personnel, Inc.
164. Topeka Chamber of Commerce
165. Topeka Management, Inc.
166. Transitions Group
167. Travel Association of Kansas
168. Tucky Allen
169. Tuttle Agency- Farm Bureau Financial Services
170. Universal Products, Inc
171. Vektex
172. Vornado Air, LLC
173. Vortex Companies
174. Wade Ventures, LLC
175. Wenger Manufacturing
176. Wesley Towers
177. Western Industries Plastic Products, Inc.
178. Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
179. Wilson Building Maintenance, Inc.
180. Woodwork Manufacturing & Supply
181. Wray & Sons Roofing Co., Inc.