

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 19, 2020

Governor Kay Ivey
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

As our state and nation responds to the COVID-19 pandemic by encouraging “social distancing,” many workers in Alabama have been forced to stay home to attend to their health as well as their families’ wellbeing. We write to urge your administration to extend the duration of unemployment benefits for workers impacted by COVID-19 to twenty-six weeks in an effort to prioritize their financial and physical well-being.

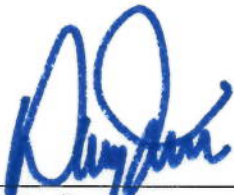
We appreciate the actions your administration has taken thus far to streamline the processing and availability of unemployment benefits. The actions of our public officials have been instrumental in shaping the public’s understanding of the coronavirus’ impact, and continued leadership will ensure we effectively respond to this challenge.

Alabama’s economy relies on workers across a variety of sectors and industries who will be impacted by the spread of COVID-19. We are facing unprecedented economic upheaval, and families will increasingly rely on these funds to afford basic necessities, including food, housing, and medication. One of our top priorities must be to support workers and families facing difficult financial circumstances due to the pandemic.

For these reasons, we urge you to work with the State Legislature to make available twenty-six weeks of unemployment benefits for all eligible individuals for the duration of this public health and economic crisis. This action would be an impactful step to maintaining economic stability during this challenging time.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Cc:

AL Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington

State Senate President Will Ainsworth

State Senate Majority Leader Greg Reed

State Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton

State House Majority Leader Nathaniel Ledbetter

State House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels