



MATTHEW SIMPSON  
Assemblyman 114<sup>th</sup> District  
Essex, Warren, Saratoga, and  
Washington counties

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Social Services

COMMITTEES  
Environmental Conservation  
Local Governments  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Commissioner Roberta Reardon  
New York State Commissioner of Labor  
NY State Office Campus, Bldg. 12  
Albany, NY 12240

Dear Commission Reardon,

Of the many roles that government assumes the people it serves, ensuring available and accessible financial safety in times of grave need is as important as any. History has shown that Unemployment Insurance has irrefutably saved families and communities in the direst of times. The onset of COVID-19 brought unprecedented social, health, and economic shockwaves that prove this notion. History has also shown that the cycle of dire times eventually enters a phase of recovery.

As safety guidelines ease and economic restrictions are lifted in conjunction with the successful vaccination programs, our social and economic recovery has begun. However, lingering effects from our case-prevention lockdown policies continue even as they have been rendered unnecessary and no longer reflect the same need during which time they were conceived. For our society to maximize the potential for a fully universal and sustainable recovery, our businesses need to have a full workforce in order to meet the demands that lie ahead.

Many in our business community have reached out to convey the difficult experience of meeting their workforce needs. More have communicated the resources expended following up with unresponsive applicants, being left waiting for applicants for interviews that never show and scrambling when new hires fail to show for their first day. In addition, the increased rates that employers are paying to cover an alarmingly depleted trust along with an unprecedented rate of fraud has put a true economic and social recovery on shaky ground.

On behalf those residing within the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I ask that New York return to pre-pandemic work search requirements effective immediately. I also ask that we refrain from any further extension of the COVID-19 era Unemployment Benefits. We need to safeguard those who truly need the assistance such as those caring for loved ones and unable to leave their side or families who search for child-care options as they explore re-entry to the job market. We must also ensure that all able individuals re-enter the workforce to contribute and participate in the social and economic recovery our society needs to move forward from the devastating effects of COVID-19.

I thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Matthew Simpson  
114<sup>th</sup> District, New York State Assembly