



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

July 24, 2020

Senator Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Bryan Steil  
1408 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mark Pocan  
1421 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ron Kind  
1502 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Gwen Moore  
2252 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jim Sensenbrenner  
2449 Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

Representative Glenn Grothman  
1427 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Tiffany  
1714 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Gallagher  
1230 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

As you know, the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program provided by the CARES Act is set to expire at the end of this week. Although the additional \$600 per week provided by FPUC since April has greatly helped Wisconsinites, the economic circumstances that led folks to apply for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the first place have not subsided. We write to encourage you to extend this vital benefit.

The FPUC program is credited with offsetting lost wages, buffering against greater economic hardship, and avoiding an even more substantial reduction in consumer spending. It is critical for Wisconsin that these expanded benefits be continued to be funded with federal dollars. Through July 11<sup>th</sup>, regular UI benefit payments paid through the UI Trust Fund increased by \$612.7 million or 253.8 percent when compared to benefits paid through the same week in 2019.

While FPUC benefits are helping individual recipients, they are also flowing to landlords, childcare providers, and grocery stores. Without an extension, many Wisconsinites will be unable to pay these costs, creating a domino effect of economic damage. While the state's unemployment rate has dropped in recent months, having over 8 percent of our workforce earning a maximum of \$370 a week will create even greater hardships on them, their families, and our state's businesses that are already struggling to survive this unprecedented recession.

As COVID-19 persists in wreaking havoc on the health of Wisconsinites and our economy, continuing the FPUC program is crucial as we continue to ask folks to stay home as much as possible and the virus unexpectedly closes

workplaces. Further, the pandemic has had the greatest impact on the health and economic well-being of Wisconsin's communities of color. Extending the FPUC program would help ensure already existing racial disparities do not widen during this period of time.

Folks have lost their jobs as part of the national effort to save lives. They are in dire need of continued federal assistance as they weather this storm.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers  
Governor



Secretary Caleb Frostman  
Department of Workforce Development