

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Additional Benefits for Mixed Earners – Mixed Earner Coalition Letter of Support

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

Title VI of the amended HEROES Act, Additional Benefits for Mixed Earners, is a much-needed solution to a very real problem that will provide critical relief to what could be upwards of a million American workers across the country who have fallen through the cracks. This proposal comes at a time when out-of-work Americans are having their electricity turned off, are without food in their fridge, are losing their apartments, falling behind on their mortgages, and are otherwise struggling to pay for basic necessities.

We are a coalition of organizations and unions who represent entrepreneurs, gig workers, local musicians, singers, songwriters, actors, writers, photographers, and other creators. Collectively our members and workers are struggling, they need help, they need Title VI of the HEROES Act to become law. And we know the issue of mixed earners exists beyond the arts, entertainment, and gig economy world, as it also affects Americans working in recreation, food services, education, retail, manufacturing, construction, finance, insurance, real estate, and rental industries.

Under Title VI, mixed earners who are receiving traditional state unemployment and earned \$5,000 or more on their 2019 tax return will qualify for an additional \$125 a week in federal supplement. This simple approach makes it easier for state unemployment offices to help so many families who have been receiving unequal benefits.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program was intended to protect independent contractors and other self-employed American workers who lost work through no fault of their own. However, the CARES Act unintentionally excluded such entrepreneurs and freelancers who made just enough W2 income to qualify for traditional state unemployment, regardless of however small that weekly benefit amount is. These taxpayers have missed out on thousands of dollars in aid since the beginning of pandemic. Furthermore, as many mixed earners in multiple

states are now receiving less than \$100 a week in benefits, they also did not receive the FEMA \$300 federal supplement provided by the President's Executive Order.

As Congress considers further economic relief, we request a higher benefit figure as many are still experiencing a loss of almost \$800 a week in benefits. We also respectfully ask that any future relief legislation apply this proposal retroactively. These workers have struggled through as much as 28 weeks of unequal and unusually low benefits to date.

Respectfully,

Actors' Equity Association

Artist Rights Alliance

American Photographic Artists

The Authors Guild

ExtendPUA.org

Freelancers Union

Music Artists Coalition

Musicians for Musicians

National Music Publishers' Association

National Writers Union

North American Nature Photography Association

The Recording Academy

The Recording Industry Association of America

Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Songwriters Guild of America

Songwriters of North America

SoundExchange

St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA), Missouri

Springboard for the Arts, Minnesota