



June 23, 2021

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
U.S. House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Meijer
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Sherrill, Meijer, and Spanberger:

Thank you for introducing the Strengthening Unemployment Programs to Provide Opportunities for Recovery and Training (SUPPORT) for New Workers Act. The National Retail Federation (NRF) is pleased to lend our support for this legislation.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

With increased vaccination numbers and reduced COVID-19 cases, demand for retailers' goods and services is accelerating. At the same time, retailers have been unable to find workers eager to take those roles. Unfortunately, the expanded unemployment compensation payments included in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 have hindered retailers' efforts to hire more workers. The SUPPORT for New Workers Act would provide workers who have become employed after previously receiving unemployment insurance with payments of \$180 per week. The payments would be issued from the time they become employed until the expiration of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program on September 6, 2021.

There is strong evidence that expanded unemployment compensation payments have caused some individuals to stay home rather than return to work, to the detriment of the

American economy and their own skills. Incentives matter, and your legislation points workers back to work in the most constructive possible way.

NRF members applaud your bipartisan collaboration on this piece of legislation that seeks to address one of the most pressing issues facing our economy. We look forward to working with you to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French".

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations