



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Labor and Industry Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: May 4, 2021

RE: Support H.B. 406 – UC work search requirements

On behalf of the PA Chamber I urge support for H.B. 406 to reinstate work search requirements for unemployment compensation (UC) recipients, which the committee is scheduled to consider today.

Nearly 10 years ago the House and Senate unanimously passed legislation that included a requirement that UC recipients actively search for work and register on CareerLink, Pennsylvania's public job postings website. Unanimous support for this legislation demonstrated the broad recognition that state policy should encourage unemployed Pennsylvanians back into employment and provide them resources to connect with hiring employers.

This requirement was appropriately waived as the pandemic and shutdown orders left many businesses unable to open or operating at reduced capacity; yet the situation has evolved as businesses reopen, the economy improves and vaccines are increasingly available to the public.

Many employers from a range of industries now report significant workforce shortages. Businesses that barely survived the pandemic are now ready to reopen, rehire and begin contributing to their communities – yet are unable to find the workforce to operate and participate in the economic recovery. To be sure, workforce challenges existed prior to the pandemic and no single policy is a panacea. However, reinstating the UC work search requirement is an important part of a broader strategy and ought to be broadly supported as it was 10 years ago.

We urge you to support H.B. 406. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.